

# Gospel of Mark – Lesson Five

## Chapter Six

### I. Herod Dynasty

(Handout)

The family of Herods ruled in Palestine during the time of Christ and the founding of the early church. They ruled for a period of about 100 years. These men were cruel and ruthless.

**Herod the Great** was appointed as king of the Jews by the Roman Emperor Octavian and Mark Antony. This was the result of many years of fighting and intrigue. Herod the Great married a total of ten women. They together bore him at least fifteen children.

Herod tried to gain the favor of the Jewish people by rebuilding the temple. It was a magnificent temple that took 50 years to complete. However Herod also built temples to pagan gods.

**The people resented Herod. Why?**

He cooperated with and supported the Roman government.

He was not from the lineage of David. Not Jewish.

He was evil and ruthless, ordering many executions. (Even ordering his wife murdered and three of his sons executed.)

Herod enlarged the city of Caesarea into a port city on the Mediterranean Sea. Many aqueducts remain today.

Herod the Great was the ruler who ordered the male babies in Bethlehem killed at the time of Jesus's birth. He ruled for many years. He died in 4 BC (probably a year after Jesus's birth.) In his will he divided his kingdom among his three sons.

- Archelaus received Judea, Amaria, and Idumea
- Herod Philip II received the northeastern territories
- Antipas II received Galilee and Perea

**Archelaus** was the worst of the sons. The Jews and Samaritans threatened a revolt if he was not replaced. He was removed and

the region then was administered by governors appointed by Rome (Pilate).

**Herod Philip II** was not like his family. He was dignified and just. He married Salome II, the daughter of Herod Philip I, his half-brother, and Herodias. Salome later married one of her cousins.

**Herod Antipas II** was immoral. He divorced his first wife to marry Herodias, the wife of his half-brother Philip I. Herodias was also his niece. There was much intermarriage in the Herod family. He was responsible for the imprisonment and beheading of John the Baptist. He was also involved in the trial of Jesus.

Luke 23:6-12

He was exiled by the Roman emperor in 39 AD and **Herod Agrippa I** was made king over all of Palestine as his grandfather Herod the Great had been. Agrippa I was the ruler who killed the apostle James (Acts 12:1-2), had Peter thrown in prison, and persecuted the early church. Peter escaped from prison and the Bible records the death of Herod Agrippa I (Acts 18:23).

His son **Herod Agrippa II** was made king of Palestine by the Roman emperor. Agrippa II married his sister, Bernice, which was a scandal among the Jews. His other sister Drusilla married the Roman governor of Judea, Felix. Felix and Agrippa are both mentioned in the book of Acts. Felix arrested Paul in Jerusalem and Agrippa heard Paul, the prisoner, speak.

## II. Chapter 6 – Opportunities

### A. v 1-6 Opportunity to know the Servant Jesus

**For the people of Nazareth** – tried to kill him a year earlier (Lk 4:28-30), but Jesus returned to give them a second opportunity to know him.

- They thought they knew him...as a carpenter, as the son of Mary.
- What was their reaction to Jesus?
  - Amazed at His wisdom and power to perform miracles.

- Deeply offended
- Refused to believe
- The knowledge they had of him only led to unbelief
- Note: Jesus was AMAZED at their unbelief.

## B. v 7-13 Opportunity to Share the Word

For the disciples (The Twelve) –

- Why did Jesus give them these instructions? Jesus wanted them to learn to live by faith. How?
- What was their task?:
  1. Preach repentance
  2. Heal the sick
  3. Cast out demons

## C. v 14-29 Opportunity to repent of sin

For Herod Antipas – tetrarch of Galilee and Perea

He had the opportunity to repent of sin when John the Baptist preached to him – many times.  
He refused to repent and became the murderer of John who brought the word of God to him.

Lk 23:6-12 One year later Jesus stood before Herod Antipas and refused to speak to him. Herod wasted his opportunities to repent.

He rejected the Messenger (John the Baptist).  
He rejected the Messiah.

## D. v 30-44 Opportunity to show compassion

For the Disciples

The Twelve returned from their ministry trip and reported to Jesus.  
They tried to get away to rest, but the crowds followed them.

Jesus had compassion on them --- he taught them, he fed them.

Feeding the 5000 is recorded in all 4 gospels. It was an important miracle.

**What does Jesus tell the disciples to do?** “Go and find out.” – Look first at what you have and watch God multiply it while using you to minister to others.

**How does God multiply what you have?**

E. v.45-52 **Opportunity to grow in faith**

**For the Disciples**

Jesus insisted (compelled) the disciples to leave without him.

**Does it seem that sometimes Jesus has left you?**

**Did Jesus forget about the disciples when he was not with them?**

**What was he doing while they were “in serious trouble?”**

**Why did he intend to go past them? Maybe he knew they did not need them.**

The last time (Mk 4) they were in a boat in a storm, Jesus was in the boat with them. This time He was not there.

This was an opportunity for them to grow in faith.

*Note: Mark does not mention Peter’s walking on the water.*

*Remember Peter is the one who related these things to Mark.*

**V 50 – Was there a time in your life when you needed to be reminded to have faith and not be afraid?**

**V 51 – The Disciples were “totally amazed.”**

**V 52 – What did they not understand? Why were their hearts too hard?**

F. v 53-56 Opportunity to received the Lord's help

For the people of Gennesaret.

The people had not expected Jesus to show up in their town. They went running around spreading the word and bringing the sick to Jesus.

It was the next day that Jesus gave His sermon on "The Bread of Life" and ... ((Jn 6:66) "As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore. "  
They wanted bread, but not the truth.

People today want Jesus to help and heal them, but not save and deliver them from their sins.