

## LESSON XI.

## DEATH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

June 10, 1900

Mark 6: 14-20. (May be used as a Temperance Lesson.) Commit to memory vs. 21-24. Read Daniel 5.

14 And king Herod heard <sup>1</sup> of him; (for his name was spread abroad;) and he said, That John the Baptist <sup>2</sup> was risen from the dead, and therefore <sup>3</sup> mighty works do shew forth themselves in him

15 <sup>4</sup> Others said, That it is Elias. And others said That it was a prophet, <sup>5</sup> or as one of the prophets

16 But when Herod heard thereof, he said, <sup>6</sup> It is John, whom I beheaded: he is risen from the dead.

17 For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for: Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her

18 For John <sup>8</sup> had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife

19 <sup>9</sup> Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him, and <sup>10</sup> would have killed him: <sup>11</sup> but she could not:

20 For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a <sup>12</sup> just man and an holy, and <sup>13</sup> observed him; and when he heard him, he <sup>14</sup> did many things, and <sup>15</sup> heard him gladly

21 And when a convenient day was come, that Herod on his birthday made a supper to his lords, <sup>16</sup> high captains, and <sup>17</sup> chief <sup>18</sup> estate of Galilee;

**Revised Version.**—<sup>1</sup> Therefore, for his name had become known; <sup>2</sup> Is: <sup>3</sup> Do these powers work in him: <sup>4</sup> But others said, It is Elijah; <sup>5</sup> Even; <sup>6</sup> John, whom I beheaded, he is risen. *Omit* from the dead; <sup>7</sup> The sake of Herodias; <sup>8</sup> *Omit* had; <sup>9</sup> And Herodias set herself; <sup>10</sup> Denied to kill; <sup>11</sup> And; <sup>12</sup> Righteous; <sup>13</sup> Kept him safe; <sup>14</sup> Was much perplexed; <sup>15</sup> He; <sup>16</sup> And the; <sup>17</sup> The chief men; <sup>18</sup> Herodias herself; <sup>19</sup> She; <sup>20</sup> At meat; <sup>21</sup> And; <sup>22</sup> Out; <sup>23</sup> Forthwith give me; <sup>24</sup> But for the sake of his oaths and of them that sat at meat; <sup>25</sup> Straightway; <sup>26</sup> Forth a soldier of his guard; <sup>27</sup> To bring his head; <sup>28</sup> Therefore

22 And when the daughter of <sup>19</sup> the said Herodias came in, and danced, <sup>20</sup> and pleased Herod, and them that sat <sup>21</sup> with him, <sup>22</sup> the king said unto the damsel, Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give it thee

23 And she swore unto her Whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give it thee, unto the half of my kingdom

24 And she went <sup>25</sup> forth, and said unto her mother What shall I ask? And she said, The head of John the Baptist

25 And she came in straightway with haste unto the king, and asked, saying, I will that thou <sup>26</sup> give me by and by in a charger the head of John the Baptist

26 And the king was exceeding sorry; <sup>27</sup> *not* for his oath's sake and for their sakes which sat with him, he would not reject her

27 And immediately the king sent <sup>28</sup> an executioner, and commanded <sup>29</sup> his head to be brought: and he went and beheaded him in the prison

28 And brought his head in a charger, and gave it to the damsel: and the damsel gave it to her mother

29 And when his disciples heard <sup>30</sup> of it, they came and took up his corpse, and laid it in a tomb

## EXPLANATION

**Connection**—While the Twelve were on their missionary tour, John the Baptist was beheaded by Herod. This Lesson tells us of his imprisonment and death.

**14. King Herod.** Antipas, son of Herod the Great. He was popularly known as king, but was only governor of Galilee. His name was spread abroad; by His own wonderful works and those of the Twelve. John the Baptist was risen. Herod's guilty conscience was troubling him because of the murder of John. Therefore mighty works. John had done no miracles (John 10: 41); but now, thought Herod, he has risen from the dead, and therefore has this new power.

**15-18. It is Elias; Elijah, whom the people expected to reappear, according to Mal. 4: 5. It is a prophet; one in the spirit and power of the old prophets. (See Luke 9: 8.) Herod said . . . it is John, whom I beheaded. His sin has overtaken him. He is terror-stricken. In prison; the fortress of Macherus. (See "Time and Place.") It is not lawful. Her husband and Herod's wife were both living. (See Luke 3: 19.)**

**19, 20. Had a quarrel; a grudge. She nursed her anger and waited her revenge. Herod feared John. His conscience troubled him, though he did not obey it. A just man. Righteousness puts guilt to shame. He was also afraid of the people (Matt. 14: 5). Observed him; Rev. Ver., "Kept him safe," that is, from the cruel Herodias.**

**Did many things; Rev. Ver., "was much perplexed," not knowing whether to follow his conscience or Herodias' cruel desire for John's life.**

**21-23. A convenient day; Herod was excited with wine. That would be Herodias' opportunity. Lords; the civil authorities. High captains. The highest officers in the army. Chief men (Rev. Ver.); perhaps the men of highest social standing. The daughter of Herodias. Salome by name, as Josephus tells us. Danced. In the East dancing girls are disreputable. A sad pair—Herodias and her daughter. Ask of me. Wine and the fascinating young princess made him lavish with his promises. Swore unto her. Perhaps Salome hesitated for a moment, and then the king repeated the promise with an oath.**

**24-26. What shall I ask? This is what the vile mother wanted. How ghastly the answer! Straightway with haste. No hesitation now; she enters into the spirit of the awful plot. By and by; at once, instantly. Charger. A large platter on which food was served. She "asked the Baptist's head as if she had been asking a favorite dish." (Bruce.) Sorry; for the reason in v. 20. His oath's sake. A poor code of honor.**

**27-29. An executioner. A soldier of the bodyguard. Took up his corpse; from the ground outside the prison, where tradition says Herodias caused it to be thrown; and, as Matthew tells, "went and told Jesus" (14: 12).**