

Lesson IX.

THE DEATH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST September 1, 1912

Mark 6 : 14-29—Memory Verses, 27, 28.

Golden Text—Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life.—Revelation 2 : 10.



the king, and asked, saying, I will that thou give me by and by in a charger the head of John the Baptist.

26 And the king was exceeding sorry ; yet for his oath's sake, and for their sakes which sat with him, he would not reject her.

27 And immediately the king sent an executioner, and commanded 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 of it, they came and took up his corpse, and laid it in a tomb.

THE LESSON RETOLD

As the fame of Jesus and His miracles spread throughout the land, Herod the king at last heard of Him and felt very much afraid.

Once Herod had been a friend of John the Baptist, but when this prophet had sternly reproved him for the terrible sin he had committed in marrying his brother's wife, Herodias, while his brother was still alive, he cast John into prison. Herodias was even more angry, and did all in her power to persuade the king to put John to death ; but Herod feared to do further harm to the holy man of God, and steadfastly refused.

Now it happened that one day Herod gave a great birthday feast to all the chief men of his kingdom, and as they sat eating and drinking the daughter of Herodias came in and danced before them. The king and his guests were delighted at this unexpected

14 And king Her'od heard of him ; (for his name was spread abroad :) and he said, That John the Bap'tist was risen from the dead, and therefore mighty works do shew forth themselves in him.

15 Others said, That it is Eli'as. And others said, That it is a prophet, or as one of the prophets.

16 But when Her'od heard thereof, he said, It is John, whom I beheaded : he is risen from the dead.

17 For Her'od 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 had said unto Her'od, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife.

19 Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him, and would have killed him ; but she could not :

20 For Her'od feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy, and observed him ; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.

21 And when a convenient day was come, that Her'od on his birthday made a supper to his lords, high captains, and chief estates of Gal'ilee :

22 And when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danced, and pleased Her'od and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel, Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt and I will give it thee.

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

24 And she went forth, and said unto her mother, What shall I ask ? And she said, The head of John the Bap'tist.

25 And she came in straightway with haste unto the king, and said, I would have thee give me by and by in a charger the head of John the

entertainment, and Herod, to show how pleased he was, swore a great oath to give her anything she asked for.

The young girl did not wish to decide such an important question for herself, and went out to ask her mother's advice, and Herodias, who had been waiting for just such an opportunity as this, told her daughter to ask not for riches or honor, but for the head of John the Baptist to be brought to her on a platter.

The king was sorry now that he had made such a thoughtless promise, for he did not wish to put John to death. But he was afraid of the bad opinion of his friends who had heard his oath, and so he commanded the cruel deed to be done.

So John, the good prophet, was put to death in the prison, and his head was brought on a platter to the daughter of the queen,