

JOHN THE BAPTIST BEHEADED.—MATT. 14: 1-12.

I. GOLDEN TEXT: "Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life." Prov. 4: 23.

II. PREVIEW THOUGHT FOR THE QUARTER: Jesus Christ, God's Son, is our Saviour.

III. PREVIEW THOUGHT FOR TO-DAY'S LESSON: How to be Self-controlled.

IV. REVIEW:

1. What kind of seed did the man sow?
2. What kind did the enemy sow?
3. Who are the good seed?
4. Who are the bad seed?

V. SYNOPSIS: Herod the Tetrarch had John the Baptist imprisoned because of his boldness in confronting him with the sin of living with his brother Philip's wife. The Baptist was kept in the dungeon at the palace and prison at Machaceus, East of the Dead Sea. Here it was that the feast recorded in our lesson was given. The daughter of Herodias

danced before the company and so pleased the king and those who sat with him that in an impulsive moment he promised her anything she would ask, limiting her request only to one half of the kingdom. The wicked Herodias quickly seized upon the opportunity of revenging herself upon the brave John and he was taken from his prison and beheaded. John's disciples came and took up the body and buried it, and went and told Jesus.

VI. NOTES ON THE LESSON TEACHING.—Few lessons are found more helpful than those where

two characters can be held up before the class and conclusions drawn, and lessons deduced from their lives. Such is the lesson we have to-day. Herod and John are the two chief characters and their characteristics will make a good study, which study will be admirably suited to the Golden Text.

VII. SUGGESTIVE STEPS.

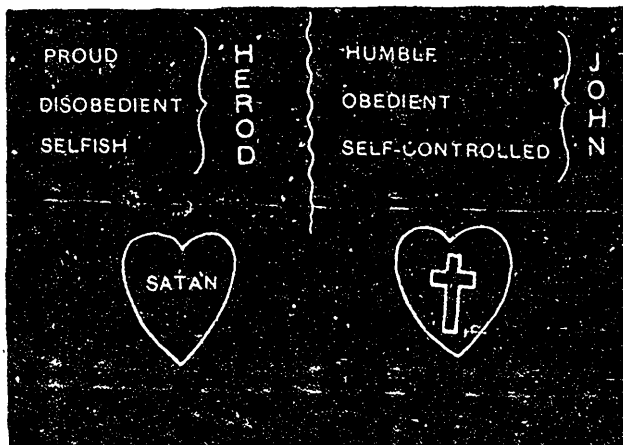
1. Who was John the Baptist? By ques-

tioning bring it out from the class. (Question it in and question it out again.)

- (a) Son of Zacharias.
- (b) Forerunner of Christ. (Explain this)
- (c) Was six months older than Jesus.
- (d) Lived in the desert and was clothed in camel's hair and preached to the people and baptized many.
- (e) Pointed to Jesus and said "Behold the Lamb of God."
- (f) Baptized Jesus.
- (g) Was put in prison by wicked Herod.
- (h) Was put to death by wicked Herod.

2. What kind of a man was he?

- (a) Humble.
- (b) Obedient.
- (c) Self-controlled.
- (a) In eating and drinking.
- (b) Boldly speaking the truth, though he was put in prison.



Dwell specially on self-control. It is not more parental control we need those days, it is self-control, on the part of the children. One ounce of self-control is worth more than a pound of parental control. Here is the teacher's chance. John was a self-controlled man. Here give one or two illustrations of self-control.

- (a) A boy who controls his temper.
- (b) Daniel who would not take the king's wine, etc., etc.