

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 ¹ of him: (for his name was spread abroad:) and he said, That John the Baptist ² was risen from the dead, and therefore ³ mighty works do shew forth themselves in him.

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

16 But when Herod heard thereof, he said, ⁶ 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 ⁷ Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her.

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

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

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

21 And when a convenient day was come, that Herod on his birthday made a supper to his lords, ¹⁶ high captains, and ¹⁷ chief estates of Galilee;

22 And when the daughter of ¹⁸ the said Herodias came in, and danced, ¹⁹ and pleased Herod and them that sat ²⁰ with him, ²¹ the king said unto the damsel, Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give it thee.

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

24 And she went ²² 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 ²³ give me by and by in a charger the head of John the Baptist.

26 And the king was exceeding sorry: ²⁴ yet for his oath's sake and for their sakes which sat with him, he would not reject her.

27 And ²⁵ immediately the king sent ²⁶ an executioner, and commanded ²⁷ 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 ²⁸ of it, they came and took up his corpse, and laid it in a tomb.

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

GOLDEN TEXT

Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit. Eph. 5: 18.

DAILY READINGS

M.—Mark 8: 14-20. Death of John the Baptist.

T.—Luke 8: 15-20. Reproof of sin.

W.—Heb. 11: 32-40. The martyr roll.

Th.—Rev. 2: 7-11. The crown of life.

F.—Dan. 5: 1-7; 25-31. Belshazzar's feast.

S.—Isaiah 5: 8-13. Sinful feasting.

S.—Eph. 5: 6-21. Wise walking.

TIME

Early A.D. 29, the third year of Christ's ministry, called "the year of development." John had been in prison for probably a year.

PLACE

Macherus, a fortress to the north-east of the Red Sea, where John was imprisoned.

CATECHISM

Q. 25. How doth Christ execute the office of a priest?

A. Christ executeth the office of a priest in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God; and in making continual intercession for us.

LESSON PLAN

I. A Martyr to Duty, 14-18.

He had reproved King Herod for his sin.

II. Through a King's Folly, 19-23.

Against his own better judgment.

III. And a Queen's Revenge, 24-29.

Coolly planned and relentlessly carried out.

LESSON HYMNS

2; 34 (Ps. Sel.); 280; 532; 250.

See Lesson I

EXPOSITION

Connecting Links—Luke 9: 6 tells how the Twelve Apostles fulfilled their commission. During this preaching tour of the Twelve, John the Baptist was murdered by Herod Antipas, the tetrarch or governor of Galilee. He had been thrown into the prison fortress of Macherus on the banks of the Jordan near the northern part of the Dead Sea, because he rebuked Herod for his sins. This lesson tells of his death.

I. A Martyr to Duty, 14-18.

V. 14. *King Herod.* Popularly called king, but in reality only tetrarch, or governor. (Luke 9: 7.) A "tetrarch" is literally

a governor of a fourth part; here the one fourth of Herod the Great's whole kingdom. *Heard of him;* of his great works. The news might be somewhat slow to reach Herod, living, as he did, a vicious life at court, and surrounded by those who had no interest in the circle in which Jesus moved. *His name was spread abroad;* by His own marvellous works, through Galilee, and by the mission of the Twelve. *And he said, That John the Baptist, etc.* He was haunted by a guilty, superstitious fear, because of the murder of John. *Therefore do these powers work in him.* (Rev. Ver.) John had wrought no miracles in his lifetime (John