

**Bible chat notes**  
**Week starting 11.07.21**

Read Mark 6: 14 - 20

1. Discuss what is behind Herod's remark in verse 16. Describe Herod's general attitude towards John the Baptist. You might like to compare it with his later attitude to Jesus, according to Luke 23: 8 - 11.
2. How would you sum up Herodias' attitude towards John?

Read Mark 6: 21 - 29

1. The daughter of Herodias, named as Salome by Jewish historian Josephus, got a bad press over the years, sometimes being painted as a wicked young woman leading men astray. Is there any evidence of this in our text? Why was she treated with suspicion over the years?
2. Why does Herod make his pledge in verses 22 and 23? He seems very foolish, but who is to blame? Herod, Herodias or Salome?
3. The grisly and brutal story unfolds as we well remember. Discuss why God 'allows' such brutality and suffering to take place in the world.

Conclusions

Our Old Testament reading on Sunday described King David dancing with delight before the Lord (2 Samuel 6:1-5 & 12b-19). Our minister argued that authentic spirituality needs to embrace both the dark times and the light times in our faith. Consider these questions raised in the talk, and, if you feel able, share some responses:

1. When did you feel at your lowest and most despairing?
2. When did you feel at your best and most exultant?
3. At which extreme are you more likely to feel close to God?
4. What lessons can we learn through times of pain and suffering?