



Dear Friends in Christ,

What do you believe about God? What do you believe about Jesus? If you say that God is our Creator, our Heavenly Father and that He is all-powerful, then I ask, do you have faith in Him? If you say Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and that He is your Savior, then do you believe that through Him all things are possible?

Sometimes when I look at our world today and those who call themselves Christians, I have to wonder if they truly believe? Several months have passed now since things came to a halt with COVID-19. We see people going out to stores and many other places some with masks on and some not wearing a mask. For the most part, COVID-19 has not slowed down people too much. We pretty well do what we want.

What about the church? If people can do anything else they wish to do, then why can't they come to church? We wear masks and social distance ourselves from others. Has COVID-19 given us an excuse for not going to church? Sure seems that way. Yes, we can watch services on Facebook Live or recorded services on web pages, but it still is not the same as being there.

One day we will stand before God, and I wonder, will it be virtual, or will it be in-person? That is something I want you to think about. God bless, and I hope to see you in church soon.

Sincerely in Christ,  
*Bro. Jay Hatfield*



### Is Anything Worth Dying For? Mark 6:14-29

In this message, we are going to look at the characters in the story and a little bit of their history. When we are finished, we should have a greater understanding about life and about what is important to us to take a stand for.

**Let's begin by looking at the characters in this passage.** The first is Herod Antipas. The name "Herod" was almost like a family

name. It meant "heroic," but there weren't any heroes in this bunch. Sometimes it can become confusing because there were no less than eight Roman rulers who used the name, Herod. This was Herod Antipater, whose nickname was Antipas. He was one of the sons of the ruler who is often called Herod the Great. Herod the Great was the ruler when the wise men came asking, "Where is the one born King of the Jews." Herod the Great was paranoid and jealous. He ordered the death of several of his wives and sons including Herod Antipas, but then he died. Antipas was then named ruler of four small areas. He was called a Tetrarch. He always wanted to be a king, so to be more like a king, he married an older Arabian princess. This was to give him a royal connection.

Let me introduce to you Herodias. Herodias was the Jezebel of the New Testament. She was the granddaughter of Herod the Great. Herodias visited Rome and met her uncle Philip, the half-brother of Antipas. Philip wasn't in politics; he was a wealthy Roman businessman. Herodias seduced her much older uncle Philip, and they were married. One day, Antipas left his Arabian princess wife and visited his brother Philip in Rome. Herodias had grown tired of her husband, so she seduced Antipas, her brother-in-law, and also an uncle. Antipas and Herodias eloped back to Galilee. Antipas' Arabian princess had gotten word of the scandal before her husband could return with his younger mistress. They were never divorced; she just packed up and ran home to her daddy.

Now, let me introduce to you Salome, Herodias' daughter. She is not named in the Bible. Josephus the historian tells us her name was Salome. The really sad thing about Salome is the word used to describe her indicates that she was a very young teen or pre-teen. It was a word to describe a young girl not yet of marriageable age. Girls often married at age 16 back then. The same word used to describe Salome is used to describe the daughter of Jairus who was twelve years old.

Finally, I introduce to you John, God's faithful prophet. John the Baptist is six months older than his cousin Jesus. Like Samson, John had taken a Nazarene vow and had never cut his hair or beard. He was a man of the wilderness, and ate locust and wild honey and wore a camel's hair garment. He baptized Jesus even though he felt unworthy to do so. When asked if he was the Messiah, he denied it. John's job was to introduce Jesus and then to move off the scene. John publicly preached that it was both illegal and immoral for Herod to be sleeping with his niece and sister-in-law. This infuriated Herodias, and she demanded Herod to kill him. Herod recognized

John to be a man of God, so to make his wife happy, he arrested John and put him in jail.

**Now, let's get into the action.** There is a birthday party. It is the birthday of Herod Antipas. At this party, Herodias knew the wine would be flowing, and Herod had a weakness for dancing girls. She coached her young daughter to perform a sensual, seductive dance. The Bible says, "she pleased Herod and his dinner guests." Herod said to the girl, "Ask for anything you want, up to half my kingdom, which was funny because he didn't have a kingdom to give to her." He was the man who wanted to be king, but only a ruler over four districts. He was just bragging in front of his guests. Salome went to her mother and said, "What should I ask for?" As a child, she probably was thinking about a pony or a doll, but her mother told her to ask for John the Baptist's head on a food platter. Herod was trapped. He made an oath right there in front of all his friends. He would lose face if he didn't keep his promise. He decided it was better John loses his head rather than look ridiculous before his friends.

There are some life lessons we can learn from the characters in this story:

- **A guilty conscience is a cruel companion.** Months later, when Herod heard about the miracles of Jesus, he was certain it was John the Baptist who had come back to life to haunt him.
- **Hateful anger spills out and hurts those close to you.** The sad story of Herodias is that her rage at John was likely a deadly infectious disease that destroyed Antipas and her daughter Salome.
- **Be sure, your sins will find you out.** Historians record that Salome's life was filled with tragedy. She moved back to Rome where she went through several failed marriages. She died tragically crossing a frozen river when the ice cracked. A jagged piece of ice severed her head.
- **There are some things worth dying for.** "Greater love has no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13) Jesus went to the cross for you.

## Faith, Freedom, Family, Friends



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

20th - Marilyn Wilson, Teresa Newman  
 21st - Danny Akin, Russell Hardin  
 23rd - Reighlyne Thomason  
 24th - Jacob Hatfield  
 25th - Tamara Smith, MJ Harmon



NO ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK



### Remember Your Offerings

Though you may not be able to attend church right now for worship services and Bible studies; we still have obligations to God to give our tithes and offerings. If you would like to send your tithe and offering to the church you can do so one of two ways. You can mail it to Debbie Russell 1627 Whitehall Road Mackville, KY 40040 or to Willisburg Baptist Church PO Box 58 Willisburg, KY 40078.

# IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Salvation of Souls  
 Family of Stevie Barnes  
 Family of Arville Walls  
 Family of Keith Sutton  
 Family of Melvan Graves  
 Family of Samuel Clarkson  
 Family of Juanita Walls  
 Julie Sagracy  
 Donna Wright  
 Pauletta Hatfield  
 Lee & Joy Bolton

Mike Seibert  
 Nikki Stumph  
 James Thompson  
 Renee Cooksey's family in the passing of her Uncle Kevin  
 All who are battling with COVID-19  
 First Responders

### ACROSS

- 2 David's best friend
- 4 First king of Israel
- 6 Last judge of Israel
- 7 A man after God's own heart
- 8 Gave David the showbread to eat
- 9 Fell off his seat backwards and broke his neck

### DOWN

- 1 Stood over nine feet tall
- 2 Shepherd from Bethlehem; his youngest son became king of Israel
- 3 Mother of the prophet Samuel
- 5 Brought food and supplies to David in the wilderness

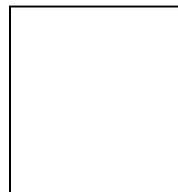
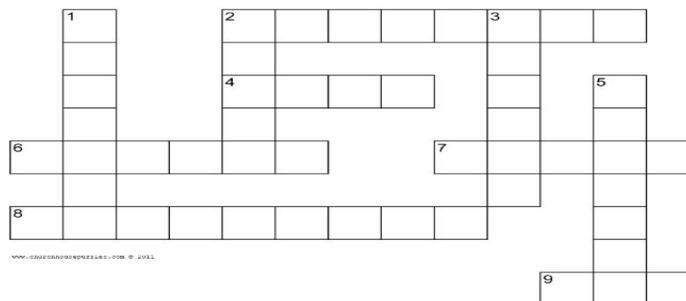
### People of the Bible

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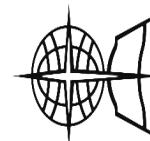
ABRAHAM	ADAM	DAVID
ELIJAH	EVE	GABRIEL
JAMES	JESUS	JOHN
JOSEPH	JOSHUA	MARY
MATTHEW	MOSES	NOAH
PAUL	PETER	RUTH
SAMSON	SOLOMON	

### People in the Bible

1 Samuel



# The Word



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