

The Slow Death of the Soul

Mark 6:14-29

The Slow Death of the Soul

- I. An Accused Conscience (14-16)
- II. An Awakened Conscience (17-20)

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Palastine in NT Times



Palastine in NT Times



Macherus from east



Macherus from east



Macherus from southeast

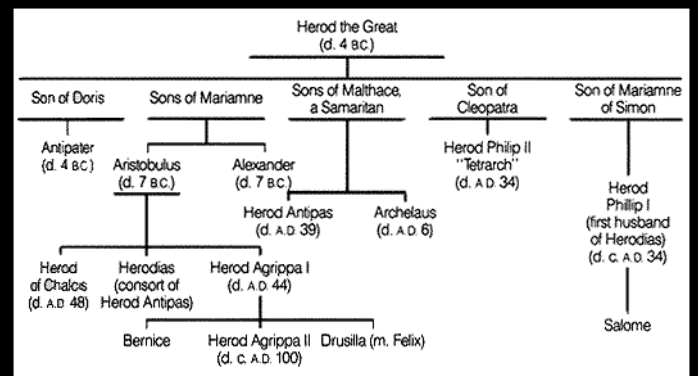


Macherus remains on summit

Josephus

- “Now when [many] others came in crowds about [John], for they were very greatly moved [or pleased] by hearing his words, Herod, who feared lest the great influence John had over the people might put it into his power and inclination to raise a rebellion, (for they seemed ready to do any thing he should advise) thought it best, by putting him to death, to prevent any mischief he might cause, and not bring himself into difficulties, by sparing a man who might make him repent of it when it would be too late. Accordingly he was sent a prisoner, out of Herod’s suspicious temper, to Macherus, the castle I before mentioned, and was there put to death.” (Ant. XVIII. 109-119)

Family Tree of Herod



The Slow Death of the Soul

- I. An Accused Conscience (14-16)
- II. An Awakened Conscience (17-20)
- III. A Spurned Conscience (21-29)
- IV. A Seared Conscience (Luke 23:6-12)

Lessons...

- 1) On a personal and individual level, it shows how conscience ignored and spurned eventually leads to the death of the soul.
- 2) This story reminds us that we must be willing to call sin, sin, regardless of how popular it may be or who practices it.
- 3) The truth is often hated, and its messenger are often persecuted and killed.
- 4) The cultural elite often reject the message of Christ.
 - Two forms...
 - 1) Herod – interest, fascination, but no true faith or repentance.
 - 2) Herodias – anger, hatred because of the confrontational nature of the message.

Lessons...

- 5) For the Roman Christians enduring persecution from those in leadership, this passage served as a reminder that it has always been thus...
 - It was with John, the forerunner.
 - It was with Jesus.
 - It will be with them.
- 6) This story reminds the apostles and us of the cost of discipleship.