

# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Share God's Word*  
*Share Christ's love*

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Back from the dead, it's not a show!  
Mark 6:14-21 by Pastor Dave Goehmann

John the Baptist is dead, but the show must go on! Who will be the next prophet? Who will be the next powerful dynamic preacher? Who will continue to dazzle us with words and tickle our ears?

Why not John the Baptist raised from the dead? That would be entertaining. It would be like a character who died on a TV show. Then in the sequel we find out his death was a fake. Or we find out somehow he had a twin!

It's all so captivating. It's like a movie or a reality TV show. Now there is real healing taking place too. Maybe it is Gray's anatomy, or who can forget ER, rescue 911, or all those Drama slash Comedy slash Action Medical shows.

I'm proud to say I don't follow those shows, at least not any more. But what about you? How much time do you spend on entertainment? How much money do you spend on entertainment? What cost are you willing to pay to get Netflix, Hulu, or just good old fashion cable?

This section of scripture doesn't solve who Jesus is. This section of scripture isn't a tribute to John the Baptist either. It is about one person who had an inner struggle. It was Herod.

Herod loved everything that was worldly. He loved power, prestige, and popularity. But his greatest weakness was the need for entertainment. As many adults might know, sex and entertainment are the twin sisters of pleasure.

That is what gets Herod into trouble with John the Baptizer. John points out his sin of taking his brother's wife. They all know it's wrong, but that doesn't make it less fun. And Herod was willing to do what was wrong to suit his own needs.

Still, there was something to God's Word. There was something to listening to what God had to say. It made Herod think a little bit at least about what he was doing. John's simple message to Herod would be to repent of his sins.

But Herod didn't do that. He liked to hear John. John was his own personal joker for the kingdom. John would say all kinds of things that somehow Herod found funny, or at least entertaining. Herod had a regularly scheduled talk show program and John was the host.

Jesus says about the death of John that they got what they wanted. He even says it was written. The only thing I kind find if Jesus was in fact speaking of the Old testament scriptures was when they specifically wanted the head of Elisha.

But Elisha escaped because God intervened. But this time they got what they wanted, that is Herodias did. This was a common occurrence as in the past people took pleasure in killing the prophets, even watching them die.

Herod hated to see him die, and something bothered him about killing a righteous man. Somewhere inside Herod he feared the truth. The truth that he was sinning. That was the struggle that was inside of Herod.

It's a struggle we all face, will we choose Jesus, or entertainment? Most people want both. They want to serve both masters. Certainly we can enjoy entertainment in our lives and there is nothing wrong with watching a few good TV shows. But sometimes it just becomes more important than God.

We see the signs. Missing church to have fun. Sitting at home instead of visiting a friend. Spending all our money so we have little left for God or other people.

**John offered Herod a chance. He offered Herod the opportunity to say no to entertainment and say yes to God. But Herod gave in to his party guests. He gave in to his gross enjoyment of a dance. He gave in to his lover. He gave in to his need to entertain everyone including himself. 2 Kings 6:31**  
<sup>31</sup>and he said, "May God do so to me and more also, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat remains on his shoulders today."

So there it was, the life of the party, a severed head on a platter.

Then when Herod heard about this new guy who was preaching and teaching like John, either John was coming back to haunt him, or John was back to entertain again. But the truth was it was Jesus and not John at all.

And the reality was that Jesus was no fun. Jesus wasn't a show, he was real. Jesus didn't end up dying to be dramatic. Jesus died because that's what he had to do to save us. That was what Jesus had to do to forgive our sins. Our sins were pretty messy, mostly from choosing the pleasures of this world.

Jesus dying for us was certainly no picnic. Jesus death was so gruesome most people couldn't even look at him. The Pharisees and Jewish leaders took pleasure in his death, but the way he died was so sick, no one could take pleasure in seeing the suffering.

**Even Herod wanted Jesus killed. Herod's guilt had made his heart hard. His conscience was now numbed by that time. He was now satisfied with his life of sin. Luke 13:31-33**

<sup>31</sup>At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." <sup>32</sup>And he said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course. <sup>33</sup>Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.'

But Herod had one last chance to change his mind when Pilate sent Jesus to him to be on trial. Herod wanted an entertaining miracle but Jesus wouldn't give it to him.

Herod wanted to bury his sin deep in his heart. He wanted to bury it so far he wouldn't have to worry about it. What a torment it would be, instead of a pleasure. What a painful reality it could be to suffer hell for the sake of our pleasures on earth.

But Jesus buried our sin for us. He buried it in himself so we might enjoy the pleasure of living in paradise. **Romans 6:4**  
We were **buried** therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.  
Why would he do that when we chose something and someone else over him so many times.

God's grace is beyond our understanding. We were therefore buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we might rise from the dead as Jesus rose.

John the Baptist and all the other prophets were silenced for speaking God's Word. But Jesus. Yes Jesus. Will never go away. He will keep coming back day after day after day. You can't get rid of him.

So the choice lies before you now. Will you see Jesus as someone who is back to haunt you? Or will you see Jesus as the one who has come back to save you? He has saved you. Place your sins on him. His choice for you is to be with him in Paradise.