

Read Mark 6:21-29

21 Herodias's chance finally came on Herod's birthday. He gave a party for his high government officials, army officers, and the leading citizens of Galilee.

22 Then his daughter, also named Herodias, came in and performed a dance that greatly pleased Herod and his guests. "Ask me for anything you like," the king said to the girl, "and I will give it to you."

23 He even vowed, "I will give you whatever you ask, up to half my kingdom!"

24 She went out and asked her mother, "What should I ask for?" Her mother told her, "Ask for the head of John the Baptist!"

25 So the girl hurried back to the king and told him, "I want the head of John the Baptist, right now, on a tray!"

26 Then the king deeply regretted what he had said; but because of the vows he had made in front of his guests, he couldn't refuse her.

27 So he immediately sent an executioner to the prison to cut off John's head and bring it to him. The soldier beheaded John in the prison,

28 brought his head on a tray, and gave it to the girl, who took it to her mother.

29 When John's disciples heard what had happened, they came to get his body and buried it in a tomb.

What did Herod do on his birthday (v. 21)? He had a huge birthday party.

Who did he invite to his party? All the important people in his kingdom.

Who came and danced for Herod's friends (v. 22)? Herodias' daughter.

Did Herod and his friends like Herodias' daughter's dancing? Yes, very much.

King Herod liked the dance so much that he offered to give the girl dancer what (vv. 22-23)? Anything she wanted, even up to half of his kingdom. He promised her she could have it.

What did the girl do next (v. 24)? She went to ask her mother for advice.....what she should ask the King for?

What did her mom tell her to ask the King for? The head of John the Baptist on a platter.

When she told the king what she wanted how did he feel (v. 26)? He was upset. He didn't want to kill John.

What was the king's major concern? After his friends heard him promise the girl whatever she wanted, he couldn't say no to her or his friends wouldn't respect him and would make fun of him. He painted himself into a corner (explain).

What did the King do (vv. 27-28)? Ordered John to be killed and have his head brought back to him on a platter. They brought it back to him, he gave it to the girl and she gave it to her mother.

Did he do the right thing or the easy thing? Same example with Pilate (Luke 23:1-25).

What did John the Baptist's disciples and friends do (v. 29)? They came and got his body and buried him.

How do you think his disciples felt? Probably sad and maybe even angry at the King. They may have thought that God wasn't fair (Isaiah 55:8-9).