

**Bad Girls of the Bible**  
***Herodias: Prophet Killing Wife of a King***  
(Part 6)

**Intro:**

Around 30AD, a man came on the scene in Israel named John. His role was to prepare the way for the Messiah...Jesus. He came calling people to repentance and baptizing them as a symbol of that repentance. Thus He became known as John the Baptist. He was intense and fearless. He called peasant, Roman soldiers, religious leaders, even the King of Israel to repent. It was confronting the King named Herod that got him in trouble. (Summarize story)

**I. Sometimes God Calls Us To Expose Wrong Behavior**

*Mark 6:17-19* “For Herod had sent soldiers to arrest and imprison John as a favor to Herodias. She had been his brother Philip’s wife, but Herod had married her. John had been telling Herod, “It is against God’s law for you to marry your brother’s wife.” So Herodias bore a grudge against John and wanted to kill him, but without Herod’s approval she was powerless.” (NLT) John confronted Herod about his wrong behavior.

A. Confronting wrong will sometimes creates resentment rather than remorse.

1. There was no remorse from the corrective voice of John the Baptist. Herodias resented the fact that John exposed her wrong behavior and was trying to influence her husband. Instead of motivating her to change, her resentment motivated her to kill him.
2. Have you ever confronted someone about their wrong behavior / attitude and found that it made the situation worse? Instead of repentance or remorse, they ended up resenting you even more?
3. Have you ever confronted an alcoholic or drug addict? I’ve had some of these encounters go well. There is a brokenness and a willingness to seek help. I’ve had some go very bad. Anger, violence, threats, denial, and a loss of relationship.
4. Over the years I have had to confront people in church over their less than Christ like behavior. Usually things pertaining to gossip / slander / divisiveness / and general unloving behavior. These things I simply do not tolerate here at Foothills.
5. I’ve had many of these encounters go very well. There is genuine remorse and changed behavior. I also had plenty of them go very bad. There is denial, blame, increased resentment, the need to be a victim. They usually leave the church.
6. Sometimes confronting wrong just brings out the worst in some people. If this is the case...then why do it? If John would have kept his mouth shut, he wouldn’t have been thrown in jail and executed.
7. It seemed as if John the Baptist created his own fate by not keeping His mouth shut. Confronting the King himself didn’t seem like a very smart thing to do.

B. Confrontation is necessary in loving relationships

*Gal. 6:1 “Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.” (NLT)*

1. In the Kingdom of God, no one is autonomous...no one is an island. We are all accountable to one another. This notion that my behavior is no one else's business is a lie from the enemy. It is a principal from the wrong kingdom.
2. We all have a responsibility to help each other along the path; to stay on the path, and to lovingly correct each other when we stray off the path. I realize this is not very PC but it is very BC. (Biblically correct)
3. Christianity has become so individualistic over the years. It's all about my personal relationship with Jesus. It's all about Jesus and me and nobody else. What's important is only what Jesus is doing in my life. NOT TRUE!!! It's incomplete!
4. The Bible teaches no such thing. Yes, we can have a personal relationship with Jesus. BUT, that personal relationship with Jesus is supposed to be experienced in the context of a loving community. The Bible does not teach Jesus and me only. It teaches Jesus and US!
5. Your behavior / My behavior affects the whole. How you live affects my testimony. You don't think so? If you are a regular attendee at Foothills, outspoken about your involvement here and you are seen getting plastered at the White Horse on a Friday night. I go to the gym Monday morning and run into some people I know. They say... (Share)
  - Maybe it's not the White Horse. Maybe it's blowing up at Safeway - explain
6. Are you going to tell me that your behavior has no reflection on me, on Foothills, on God Himself? Of course it does! It is our collective witness in a community that has power not just the individual witness!
- This is why we have our upside down giving project (Explain the corporate witness)
  7. Because of this principal, we are commanded to lovingly, and humbly, hold each other accountable to a higher standard as followers of Jesus. If you are going to call yourself a follower of Christ, your testimony in this community is my business as is mine your business.
  8. Are there some believers in your circle of influence and friendships where you need to lovingly and humbly confront? You know they're drifting...you see the compromises...you recognize the world creeping in...there is damage to their and our testimony. Do you love them enough to say something?
- Church attendance has slacked off / not taking any classes / no home group / not serving / - Confrontation isn't always conflict. It usually starts by asking them if they're OK. Let's be willing to love each other this much!
- I see people drift away in summer more than any other time of the year.

## **II. Fear Can Cause People To Do Destructive Things**

*Mark 6:20 “for Herod respected John; and knowing that he was a good and holy man, he protected him. Herod was greatly disturbed whenever he talked with John, but even so, he liked to listen to him.” (NLT)*

A. Herodias’s plan was motivated out of resentment and fear

1. She afraid that John the Baptist could turn her husband from his evil ways. Herod liked listening to him. If so, her life would change forever. She would no longer be queen. She needed to find a way to get rid of John.
2. She already resented John, now she also feared what he could do to change her life. Can’t you just see King Herod going down into the prison and listening to John? Can’t you imagine the conversations between Herod and Herodias? “Why do you listen to that lunatic?” (Remember what John looked like...and ate?)
3. Herodias’s fear of John drove her to her plan of having her daughter dance at Herod’s celebration. She knew her husband well enough to know that he would offer any gift to her young daughter.

*Mark 6:21 “Herodias’s chance finally came on Herod’s birthday...” (NLT)*

4. She knew that her husband would never simply execute John, she had to trick him. Men haven’t changed over 1000s of years. Put a young, seductive woman in front of Herod and John’s fate was sealed.
5. Her plan rooted in fear worked perfectly. The source of her insecurity was apparently removed and presented to her on a platter. Fear can cause us to do destructive things.

B. Living in fear can result in harm to ourselves and others

1. The Bible repeatedly tells us not to be afraid. It is a command that is repeated multiple times. It’s not an isolated theme in Scripture. WHY? Fear can be damaging, fear can be destructive; fear can cloud our decisions; fear can negatively impact our relationships. Living in fear is not how God wants His people to live.
2. Making decisions that are based in fear will cause us to harm or hinder ourselves and negatively affect the people around us. HOW?
3. Just think of how many principals of God’s word we do not obey because of fear?
  - Why don’t we lovingly confront other followers of Christ?
  - Why don’t we serve?
  - Why don’t we give financially?
  - Why don’t we share our faith with others? / Invite people too church?
  - Why don’t we go on a mission trip?
  - Why won’t some of you get involved in a home group?
  - Why won’t some of you take a class this Fall at TNT nights?
  - Why won’t some of you pray with your spouse? Children?
4. How often is it because of fear we simply do not embrace the lifestyle of a follower of Jesus Christ? When we allow fear to keep us from God’s path, we negatively

effect our life, growth, and development, and we hinder others around us.

5. Fear can cause us to live in a destructive manner and completely miss the amazing adventure it is following Christ. Instead, we end up following our fears! How do we break the fear cycle?
6. ABC's of breaking the fear cycle in your life
  - **A – Admit** you are afraid to God. Tell God all about your fears. It's OK to be afraid. Fear is a very normal human emotion. Get out of your denial!
  - **B – Believe** God's word rather than the lies that come from your fears. We have a choice what we listen to. God's word Vs our fears. Most of our fears are unfounded and rooted in a lie. Satan uses our fears against us.

*Prov. 29:25 "Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the LORD means safety" (NLT)*

The safest place to be is doing what God wants you to do!

- **C – Choose** God's path. Even though you are afraid, choose a courageous response. Choose obedience in the face of your fear. Refuse to let fear make your decisions any longer. Don't wait until your fear subsides. It won't! Move forward despite your fear! This is how you get past it.

*Josh. 1:9 "This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." (NLT)*

7. The more you live like this the less fear you will experience in this life. Over time, fear will have a continual diminishing effect on your life and decisions.
8. How much is fear dominating your life? How much is fear keeping you from becoming the person God is calling you to be? I believe in every one of you there is a courageous person desperately trying to get out. Will you begin to take some steps to become that person?

- Fall is a great time to embrace a new direction. There are so many places here at Foothills for you to take a courageous step. (Explain)

*Is. 43:1 "...Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine." (NLT)* Trust God not your fears!

### **III. There Are Times God Allows Evil Plans To Succeed**

*Mark 6:26-28 "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. 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, brought his head on a tray, and gave it to the girl, who took it to her mother." (NLT)*

A. Just because Herodias's plan worked doesn't mean God's plan failed

1. Did Herodias stop the advancement of the Kingdom of God? Did she stop God's plan of the Messiah coming and dying for mankind? Did she hinder God's program in any way?
2. As tragic as John the Baptists death was, it did nothing to hinder what God was accomplishing in any way. John was transferred from a dreary dungeon in Jerusalem to the glories of heaven. His earthly assignment was done.

3. We need to remember that God always has a bigger plan than what we see. Just because evil plans succeed doesn't mean it's the end of the story of what God is doing.
4. Story of Missionary Jim Elliot: (Share) Born in Portland / graduated from Benson HS / Became a missionary to Ecuadorian Indians , called Aucas– Never before reached – Jan 8<sup>th</sup>, 1956 Jim Elliot and 4 of his companions were brutally murdered by these Indian warriors. End of the story??? Not even.
5. Sometimes God allows what appears to be a tragedy only to use it to fully accomplish His will. John fulfilled His assignment and simply went home.
  - What happened to Herodias and Herod? Historians tell us that the Emperor in Rome promoted Herod's brother Phillip as the King over the land. Herodias and Herod appealed the decision and as a result, were banished, removed from their positions; and lived out their lives in obscurity. (Reap what you sow)

B. Often, the evil plans of the world are used by God to refine His people

*1 Peter 4:12 "Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you." (NLT)*

*James 1:2-4 "Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way." (Message)*

1. History has proven over 2000 years that whenever the church is persecuted; whenever there is heat and pressure from the darkness, the people of God are refined, their mission is more clear, and the church tends to multiply even more.
2. God refines His people...refines their faith under pressure. God uses the fires from life to refine us and make us more like Himself. The heat and pressure of life causes the dross in our character to come to the surface so we can see it and recognize our need to change.
3. Haven't you noticed that stress brings out the worst in us? How do you act when you experience the heat and pressure of life? Do you see your impatience? Your anger...Your unforgiveness...Your critical tone...Your verbal assaults...What shows up when the heat is turned up in your life?
4. These are opportunities for us to see our flaws; admit we need to grow, and choose to allow Jesus to continue transforming our lives. Jesus wants us to see these qualities NOT so that we are controlled by guilt but that we recognize the need for our lives to be controlled by Him.
5. Maybe you're experiencing a lot of heat and pressure in your life right now. Instead of trying to get out of it prematurely, maybe the better strategy would be to let the trial do its work so that you can mature as a follower of Christ.

- I have discovered over the years the quicker I submit to God's process of change, the quicker I get on the other side of the trial. Is God allowing your life to be refined right now? What's been your response?

The life of Herodias shows us...

1. Sometimes God calls us to lovingly confront the wrong behavior in others. We are accountable to one another as we follow Christ. Our collective testimony is at stake.
2. Our lives are not to be controlled by fear. It is fear that is keeping us from living and looking like followers of Christ. Fear keeps us from obedience. Are we willing to move past it?
3. God may allow evil plans to succeed, but He uses these trials to perfect and grow His people. Are we seeing the dross that the trials reveal? Are we letting Jesus change our lives?