





**Pledge Your Head  
To Heaven**

<sup>7</sup> Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits. <sup>8</sup> These were his instructions: “Take nothing for the journey except a staff — no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. <sup>9</sup> Wear sandals but not an extra tunic. <sup>10</sup> Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. <sup>11</sup> And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them.”

<sup>12</sup> They went out and preached that people should repent.

<sup>13</sup> They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

<sup>14</sup> King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him." <sup>15</sup> Others said, "He is Elijah." And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago." <sup>16</sup> But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, the man I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!"

<sup>17</sup> For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married. <sup>18</sup> For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." <sup>19</sup> So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, <sup>20</sup> because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him.

<sup>21</sup> Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. <sup>22</sup> When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests. The king said to the girl, “Ask me for anything you want, and I’ll give it to you.” <sup>23</sup> And he promised her with an oath, “Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom.”

<sup>24</sup> She went out and said to her mother, “What shall I ask for?” “The head of John the Baptist,” she answered. <sup>25</sup> At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: “I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter.” <sup>26</sup> The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. <sup>27</sup> So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John’s head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, <sup>28</sup> and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother.

<sup>29</sup> On hearing of this, John's disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

<sup>30</sup> The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught.

Mark 6:7—30



# Pledge Your Head To Heaven

The man whose little sermon is 'repent' sets himself against his age, and will for the time being be battered mercilessly by the age whose moral tone he challenges. There is but one end for such a man — 'off with his head!' You had better not try to preach repentance until you have pledged your head to heaven.

Joseph Parker





# Another Marcan 'Sandwich'

# Jesus Sends Out the Disciples

They went out and preached that people should repent.  
<sup>13</sup> They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them... <sup>30</sup> The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught.

Mark 6:12–13, 30



# The Sandwich - Herod and John the Baptist

King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him."

Mark 6:14



# Who Is This?

King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him." <sup>15</sup> Others said, "He is Elijah." And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago." <sup>16</sup> But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, the man I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!"

Mark 6:14–16



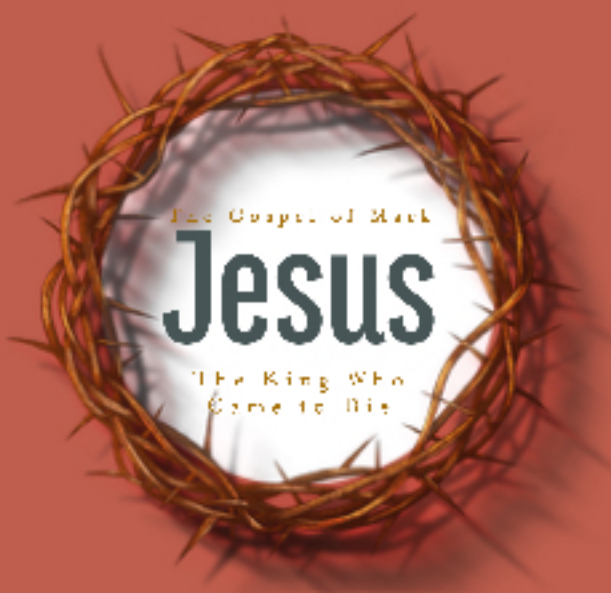
A crown of thorns is positioned around the perimeter of the image. The thorns are dark brown and sharp, set against a bright, glowing white and yellow halo that resembles a sun or a light source. The background is a soft, out-of-focus mix of white and light blue. The text "A Disturbing Story" is centered in the middle of the image.

# A Disturbing Story

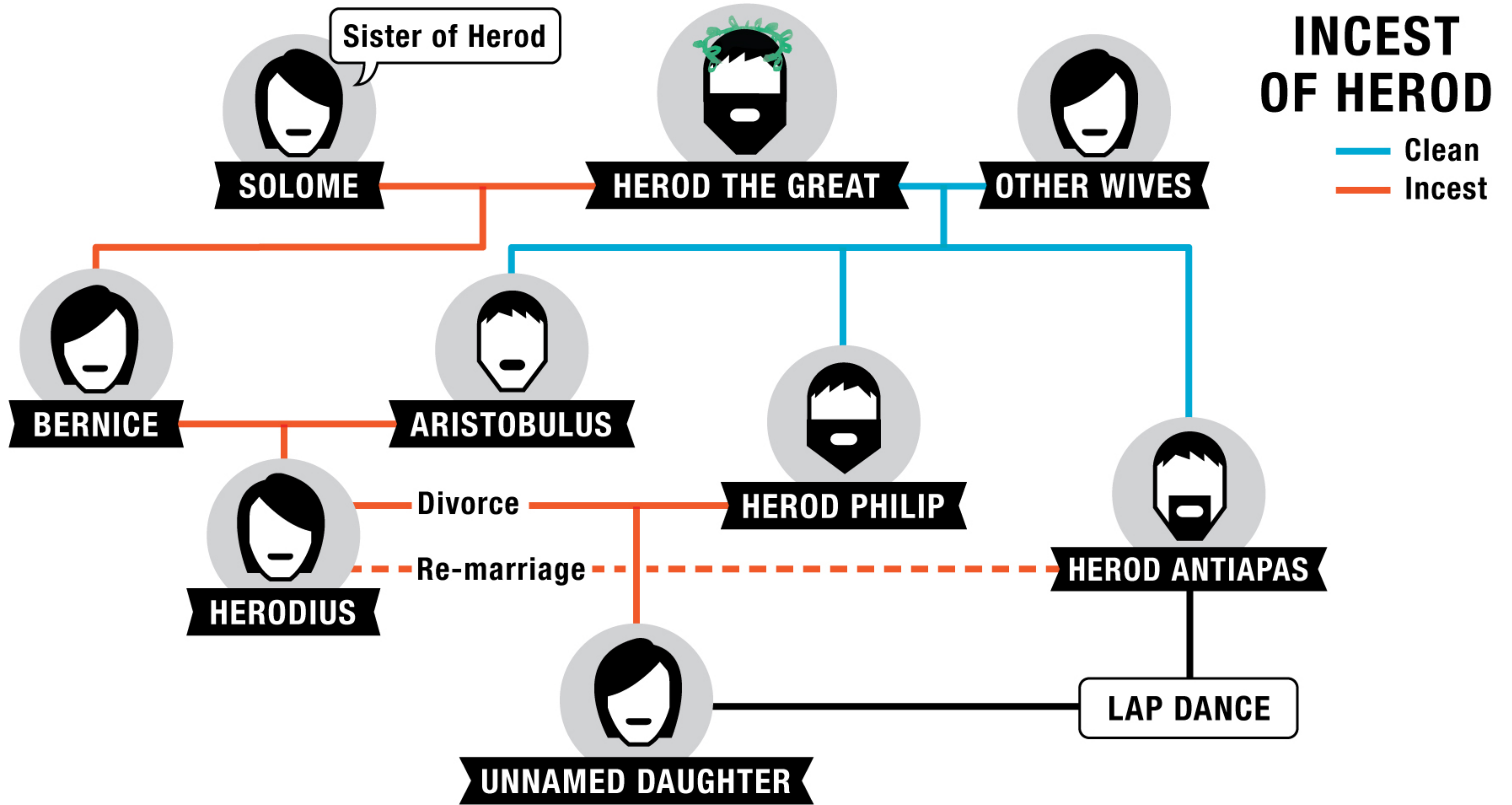
# The Herodians: A Twisted Family Tree

For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married. <sup>18</sup> For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."

Mark 6:17–18



# INCEST OF HEROD





# John, Herod, and Herodias

For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married.  
<sup>18</sup> For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."  
<sup>19</sup> So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to,  
<sup>20</sup> because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him. Mark 6:17-20



# A Sordid Day of Debauchery

Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. <sup>22</sup> When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests. The king said to the girl, “Ask me for anything you want, and I’ll give it to you.” <sup>23</sup> And he promised her with an oath, “Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom.”

Mark 6:21–23



She went out and said to her mother, “What shall I ask for?”  
“The head of John the Baptist,” she answered. <sup>25</sup> At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: “I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter.” <sup>26</sup> The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. <sup>27</sup> So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John’s head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, <sup>28</sup> and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother.

Mark 6:24–28



A crown of thorns, rendered in a golden-brown color, frames the central text. The thorns are sharp and intertwined, creating a circular border around the words. The background behind the text is a soft, out-of-focus white and light blue, suggesting a bright, possibly outdoor setting.

The Gospel of Mark

# Applying

The Word

# Our Covenant Table

