

**MACHAERUS** A site in Jordan that was fortified by several rulers and which is thought to have been the site of the beheading of John the Baptist. After the death of Herod the Great, Machaerus, in the southern confines of Perea, was assigned to the tetrarch Herod Antipas (4 B.C.–A.D. 39), who imprisoned and killed John the Baptist there (Joseph. Ant. 18.116). At the death of Herod Agrippa (A.D. 44), the fortress passed into the direct control of the Romans and remained thus until 66, the outbreak of the first Jewish war. The rebels besieged by Lucinius Basso in 72 surrendered, delivering the stronghold to the Romans.

**TIBERIAS**[Gk Tiberias (Τιβεριας)]. A city founded on the west coast of the Sea of Galilee in A.D. 20 by Herod Antipas, the tetrarch of Galilee, as a new capital city to replace Sepphoris. The city is mentioned only once in the Bible, and then only in a passing reference to boats from Tiberias carrying people in search of Jesus (John 6:23; but cf. John 6:1; 21:1). Antipas built at Tiberias a stadium, a forum or market, baths, and a royal palace on the hill that overlooked the city. He adorned the palace with animal statuary, which was so offensive to Jews that it was the first building to be destroyed in the First Revolt against Rome.

The Anchor Yale Bible Dictionary



*Memory Verse #31:* \_\_\_\_\_ has become well \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 6:14).

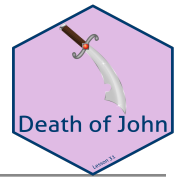
*In His Dust:* ... through \_\_\_\_\_, though he is \_\_\_\_\_, he still \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb 11:4).

### **Lesson notes & questions:**

### **Lesson Reflections (review before Apply nights):**

- What is at least one new thing I learned about loving God or my neighbor?
- Which topics would I like to know more about or need clarification?
- How does the Holy Spirit want me to apply the lesson’s Scripture to my discipleship?

*“Go make disciples...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Mt 28:19-20)*



## **APPLY!**

- Share any “Lesson Reflections” with the group. Recite this lesson’s Memory and In His Dust verses; discuss what they mean to you.
- **“John has risen” Mark 6:12-16**
  - According to John the Baptist (Mark 1:4), Jesus (Mark 1:15, Luke 24:47), and the Apostles (Mark 6:12, Acts 2:38), what is a key component of “the Gospel”? Is this component stressed in most “Gospel presentations” today? What is the danger of this omission, if any, for modern ‘believers’?
  - Generally, it’s easier to die for Jesus once than to live radically sold out to Jesus day after day, year after year. What can you do to live more “sold-out” for Jesus tomorrow than you were today?
  - Why did Herod fear John (v. 19)? If you lived radically for Christ, who might fear you, and why?
- **John condemns Antipas - Mark 6:17-20**
  - What unbiblical practices in your own country are so popular that speaking out against them would result in your *legitimate* persecution? Should you speak out anyway? DO you speak out anyway? If so, describe.
  - What are the right reasons non-Christians should fear Christians? What are some bad ways some Christians cause fear and loathing in society?
- **John beheaded - Mark 6:21-28**
  - Sex is everywhere in our society. How can a believer prepare his or her mind and heart to resist being manipulated by sex and lust as Antipas was?
  - How would you explain to a non-Christian why bad things happen to good people and good things happen to bad people? How would you explain it to a new believer?
- **Jesus retreats with His talmidim - Mark 6:29-32**
  - Read Hebrews 11:4. Who else can you think of outside of the Bible that “even though he is dead, he still speaks through his faith”?
  - Apart from mourning for John, what are some other reasons Jesus might have retreated with His disciples at this stage of His ministry? Note the parenthetical insertion that they were so busy they didn’t even have time to eat. What is Jesus teaching us today to apply to our ministries?
- **What do you want to remember and apply from this lesson?**
- **Spend the last five minutes in prayer pairs**
  - Praise for answered prayers, growth, and how God is working in your life
  - Petitions for specific challenges and intercessions for others