

November 15, 2026
“Who Is This Jesus?”
Luke 9:7–9

1. Herod Is Haunted by His Past Sin

Luke 9:7–9
7 Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening, and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had been raised from the dead, 8 by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the prophets of old had risen. 9 Herod said, "John I beheaded, but who is this about whom I hear such things?" And he sought to see him.

- Herod the Tetrarch (also known as Herod Antipas) oversaw the region of Galilee, where Jesus did a large majority of His miracles.
- Herod Antipas is the son of Herod the Great, the one who tried to kill Jesus when He was born.
- Herod is hearing more and more about all the miracles that have been happening throughout Galilee.
- Herod Antipas had John the Baptist killed. So why is he hearing rumors that John has been raised from the dead?

Mark 6:14–29
14 King Herod heard of it, for Jesus's name had become known. Some said, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. That is why these miraculous powers are at work in him." 15 But others said, "He is Elijah." And others said, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." 16 But when

Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." 17 For it was Herod who had sent and seized John and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because he had married her. 18 For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." 19 And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not, 20 for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly. 21 But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. 22 For when Herodias's daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests. And the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it to you." 23 And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom." 24 And she went out and said to her mother, "For what should I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist." 25 And she came in immediately with haste to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." 26 And the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. 27 And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison 28 and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother. 29 When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

- Herod knew that John was a righteous and holy man.
- Herod enjoyed listening to John, even though his teaching troubled him.
- Herodias hated John because he confronted her sin.
- Herod made a foolish promise and ultimately had John beheaded.
- Now Herod hears about Jesus and immediately thinks of John.

The reality is: Herod is haunted by his past sin.

- Herod silenced John, but he couldn't silence his conscience.
- There is a difference between feeling bad about our sin and genuinely repenting of our sin.
- We can try to bury our past, ignore it, or run away from it, but we

cannot escape our need for forgiveness.

Application:

- Is there something in your past that you continue to carry?
- Have you genuinely repented, or are you simply living with regret?

2. Herod Meets Jesus

Luke 23:8–12

8 When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. 9 So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. 10 The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. 11 And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. 12 And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

- Herod gets his wish when he finally faces Jesus on trial.
- Herod is in Jerusalem for Passover, so Pontius Pilate sends Jesus to face him.
- Herod is excited and glad to meet Jesus. He has wanted to see Him for a long time.
- Herod asks Jesus to perform a sign, but Jesus refuses.
- Herod questions Jesus, but Jesus does not answer.
- Herod and his soldiers mock Jesus and dress Him in splendid clothing to further ridicule Him.

The irony:

- Herod finally gets to stand before the very person he has been curious about, but he completely misses who is standing in front of him.
- Jesus is the innocent Son of God. He came to give life, yet the world rejected Him.
- Herod has an earthly throne, but Jesus is the eternal King.
- The world can mock Jesus, reject Jesus, and oppose Jesus, but it

cannot stop His Kingdom.

Application:

- You can be fascinated by Jesus without surrendering to Jesus.
- Don't be ashamed of the Gospel (**Romans 1:16**).
- Respond to mockery and accusations with gentleness and respect (**1 Peter 3:15–16**).
- If Jesus Christ sits on the throne, then we have nothing to fear and everything to gain!

3. Jesus Offers Forgiveness for Our Past

Luke 24:44–49

44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

- Jesus is the fulfillment of everything written about Him in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms.
- He suffered and died and rose on the third day so that forgiveness could be proclaimed to all nations.
- Jesus willingly went to the cross to pay the penalty for our sins.
- Through His death and resurrection, we can receive forgiveness and new life.

Your past sin does not have to define your future when your life has been surrendered to Jesus Christ.

- Stop believing the lie that your sin is too big for God to forgive.
- Stop carrying the guilt of your past mistakes as though the blood of Jesus isn't sufficient.

- Repent, put your faith in Jesus, and receive the forgiveness He offers.

Supporting Scriptures:

- **Romans 8:1** — No condemnation for those in Christ Jesus.
- **1 John 1:9** — He is faithful and just to forgive our sins.
- **Psalm 103:12** — He removes our transgressions as far as the east is from the west.

4. We Are Called to Be Witnesses of Jesus

Luke 24:48–49
48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.

- We have been forgiven.
- We have been given a new life.
- We have received the promise of the Holy Spirit.
- We have been commissioned to proclaim the Gospel.

Jesus didn't just stop at saving us from our sins. He tells us to go and proclaim the truth in His name.

How do we do this?

- We are called to know the Gospel.
- We are called to live the Gospel.
- We are called to proclaim the Gospel.
- We are called to make disciples and be witnesses of the Kingdom of God.

My prayer for this church: That the Lord Jesus opens our minds so that we may understand the Scriptures and that we are passionate about being witnesses of His Kingdom.

Closing: Who Is Jesus?

- He is a Prophet, but He is more than a prophet.
- He is a Priest, but He is more than a priest.
- He is a King, but He is more than a king.

He is Lord, and only He has the power to save us from our sins! What past sin do you need to bring to Jesus today so that you can be free from guilt and see Him for who He truly is?