

Luke 3:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But Herod the tetrarch, being reprov'd by him for Herodias his brother Philip's wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done,

Analysis

Herod's response to John's rebuke demonstrates how conviction produces either repentance or hostility. John 'reprov'd' (Greek 'elegcho'—expose, convict) Herod for Herodias (his brother's wife) and 'all the evils which Herod had done.' The comprehensiveness ('all the evils') shows John's fearless confrontation of power. That rebuke specifically addressed Herodias indicates John's willingness to confront powerful sexual sin. Herod's eventual response—imprisonment and execution (v20)—shows how prophetic faithfulness often results in persecution. John's boldness models that true ministry confronts sin regardless of the sinner's power or position. Speaking truth to power demonstrates courage rooted in God's authority.

Historical Context

Herod Antipas divorced his wife to marry Herodias, his half-brother Philip's wife, violating Levitical law (Lev 18:16; 20:21). John's public denunciation threatened Herod's political stability and marriage. His bold rebuke cost him his life (Mark 6:14-29) but demonstrated that prophets must speak God's word regardless of consequences.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does John's confronting powerful sin teach about prophetic courage?
2. How should ministers respond when truth-telling threatens personal safety?
3. Why is confronting sexual sin, even among the powerful, essential to faithful ministry?

Interlinear Text

ὁ δὲ Ἡρώδης ὁ τετράρχης, ἐλεγχόμενος ὑπ' αὐτοῦ
G3588 But Herod G3588 the tetrarch being reprov'd by him
G1161 G2264 G5076 G1651 G5259 G846

περὶ Ἡρωδιάδος τῆς γυναικὸς φιλίππου τοῦ ἀδελφοῦ
for Herodias G3588 wife Philip's G3588 brother
G4012 G2266 G1135 G5376 G80

αὐτοῦ καὶ περὶ πάντων ὧν ἐποίησεν πονηρῶν ὁ
him and for all which had done the evils G3588
G846 G2532 G4012 G3956 G3739 G4160 G4190

Ἡρώδης
Herod
G2264

Additional Cross-References

Luke 3:1 (Parallel theme): Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene,

