

Greetings in the name of Christ.

*Mark 6--And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother.*

Living in the time of Christ could be difficult to say the least! The authorities were brutal, living by their own code of ethics. Take John, for example; he was arrested because he dared to reprimand Herod and Herodias and call them out for their illicit marriage.

We know that Herod was insulted. We know that Herod feared John because he was a righteous man. We know that Herod protected John and found great interest in what John had to say.

We know that in a weak time, Herod made and kept a promise to give the daughter of Herodias the head of John the Baptizer.

It could be quite dangerous to be a servant of Jesus as John was. Great sacrifices must be expected by those who take on the mission of the Savior.

You and I have volunteered to take on that mission, and although we may not be martyred because of the mission to denounce evils in the world (and there are many...with many more being added every day!), we will be asked to sacrifice. When we denounce the sins of society in general and people specifically, we are going to be ridiculed, hated, called names and seem intolerant.

Our actions and words of warnings are misunderstood. What people interpret as intolerant or "holier than thou" is truly done out of a loving concern for their eternal future.

We find that it is better for us that we suffer these brutalities for a little while than those living in sin suffer brutalities for all eternity. Be concerned for the welfare of others before the welfare of yourself. This is the example of Christ when He headed to the cross for our salvation. We are rescued from the punishment of Hell because of Christ placing Himself before us.