

# WHAT DO WE DO WHEN WE FEEL GOD IS SILENT?

Just because God seems silent does not mean He is absent!

## **Herod the Great**

- He was great because he built great cities and rebuilt the temple in Jerusalem.
- The Romans appointed Herod King over Judea. But the Jews did not accept Herod as their King.
- He murdered two of his wives, three of his sons, and one of his mother-in-law's.

After Herod died, his kingdom was divided between two of his three sons.

- **Herod Archelaus** ruled of Judea and Samaria.
- **Herod Antipas** ruled over Galilee.
- **Herod Philip** received no slice of the kingdom.
- **The had a niece named Herodias.** Herod Philip married his niece Herodias.
- **Herodias divorces Philip and marries his brother Antipas** (*her other uncle*) and settled in Galilee.

## John the Baptist

- John was preaching in and around Galilee. He only knew one style: direct and in your face.
- John was also Jesus' cousin!
- John's message made people aware of their sin and their need for repentance.
- John hears about the marriage of Antipas and Herodias and they become his targets.

**It was against Jewish law to marry your brother's wife while he was alive!**

*Mark 6:17-20*

## John is Confused

- John is imprisoned for doing what God had called him to do.
- He got the whole region stirred up looking forward to the coming of Jesus.
- He helped kick-start Jesus' ministry when he baptized Him.
- He encouraged his own followers to leave him and follow Jesus.
- John was confused with the situation he found himself in, by doing the right thing! **He needed the help of his cousin.**

- John's friends visited him in prison and shared what Jesus was doing a lot for strangers, yet He wasn't helping John His cousin!

**John began to have second thoughts about Jesus.**

*Matthew 11:2-3*

**John becomes confused and discouraged.**

- When God answers a prayer we feel that He is amazing and so close to us.
- When our prayer is not answered, our confidence in God can become shaky.

**Discouragement shrinks our world down to the size of ME.**

John's perspective had shrunk down to the four walls of his prison cell.

**Jesus' Response** (*Matthew 11:4-6*)

**GK: (Stumble)** skandalizo: cause to stumble, to be offended or to become angry.

**God allows stuff to happen in our lives that can cause us to doubt if He cares for us!**

Jesus said, "*among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist . . .*"

***Matthew 11:11 AMP***

- Our personal circumstances do not determine how God feels about us.
- A feeling of God's inactivity in our life is not reflected of His activity in the world.
- We must look beyond our immediate circumstances to the overwhelming evidence that God is still active and in control.

## **What can we do when God seems uncooperative?**

**a. Look back** at all God has done for us.  
Remember,

- Our salvation and the contrast between our old life and now our new life.
- His faithfulness in times gone by.

**b. Look outside** our current circumstances and reflect on God's bigger purpose.

- Don't let '*the now*' diminish your hopes for tomorrow.
- Maintain faith in God in what could be – in spite of what **IS**!
- Keep a focus on the greater purpose of God – the redemption of mankind.

**c. Our circumstances** do not dictate how God feels about us.

- God's feelings about us were demonstrated in no uncertain terms at Calvary when His Son died for our sin.

### ***Mark 6:21-29***

- **John literally lost his head** and Jesus did nothing to rescue His beloved cousin.
- **Jesus was also arrested and killed.** God did nothing to save His own Son!

God commissioned both John and Jesus, and they both experienced His silence and inactivity in the time of their greatest need.

**Jesus' death 2000 + years later is still saving, healing and changing lives.**

What would of happen if God chose to save His Son and not the world?

Aren't we pleased God chose to not to cooperative with Jesus?

If He did, we would still be imprisoned by sin and death.

***Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.***

**Just because God appears silent, does not mean He is absent!**