*Series: The Mark of the Gospel, # 11*

Only One King

**Mark 6:14-29**

Lord John Acton, 19th century British politician, famously observed that:

“Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men.”

Today’s passage from Mark 6 tragically illustrates this reality, in the life of a Roman governor named Herod Antipas. While it appears to be a story about the horrible death of the prophet John the Baptist, it teaches clear lessons about our sinful nature and its consequences.

1) Power can be used for good, but more often leads to bad decisions

2) Bad decisions can be ours alone, or motivated by others in our circle of influence

3) Bad decisions inevitably lead to bad consequences

4) In a sinful world, sadly some end up paying the consequences of the bad decisions of others

5) The solution is not being a better leader, or improving your use of power, it is deciding who Jesus is – this is the context of the story, in vs. 14-16

Reflection: who is Jesus to me? Is he the king of my life? Or like Herod, am I trying to rule, making bad decisions, and both I myself, and other around me suffer the consequences?