

WEEK 9

CHOICES - KING HEROD

GROUP DISCUSSION 1

➤ Look together at Mark 4:3–20 then answer the questions below:

1 After telling the parable in verses 3–8, Jesus interprets it in verses 13–20. So, what does the “seed” represent?

2 What are the four possible outcomes when God’s word is preached? (see Mark 4:15–20)

**3 What does it mean if the hearer has “no root”?
(see Mark 4:17)**

**4 How do the “worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth
and the desires for other things” choke the word?**

5 How have you responded to hearing God’s word?

TALK OUTLINE

“The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her.” (Mark 6:26)

- King Herod was deliberately rebelling against God.
- John the Baptist, a man Herod knew was “righteous and holy,” repeatedly warned him to stop rebelling. But Herod would not turn away from what he knew was wrong – he would not repent.
- Finally, on Herod’s birthday, “the opportune time came.” His wife asked for John the Baptist’s head on a platter. Herod had a choice: he could either repent, or give her what she wanted. Under pressure from his wife, his friends and his dinner guests, Herod once again chose not to repent.
- Later in life, Herod meets Jesus. “He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer” (Luke 23:9). Rejecting Jesus’ call to repent and believe may earn us the approval of other people, but it will eventually earn us the rejection of Jesus.

NOTES

GROUP DISCUSSION 2

- **Why do you think Herod refused to repent?**
- **John's preaching greatly disturbed Herod. How does Jesus' teaching make you feel?**

HOME STUDY

- *Look back through your notes and jot down any questions you still have, so that you can discuss them in the final session next week.*