

May 24, 2015 Mark 6:14-29

O. Intro:

*Last week I sat in a room in Florida and I heard a man rail against his subordinates.

-I was happy to not be in his line of fire.

*Some of his responses were justified...but I contemplated the reality of how short his time in power really is.

*I thought of the many who had come before him and the many who would come after him...how short is the reign of human kings.

*Political and military and business leaders...who have great power, and great acclaim...they seem larger than life...while they live.

*But they don't just live...they also die.

*We should respect their positions in appropriate ways, we can respect the effort, the discipline that some have exercised to get them to those places.

*We can be grateful for the fact that many of them sacrifice greatly and we benefit from those sacrifices...this fact was evident in the meeting I sat through.

*However, the great ones of today...will all be dead someday.

*I saw some of their names on the street signs on the military base and some had buildings and ships named for them...but the people were all gone.

*Great lives reduced to the words on signs on roads or plaques on buildings...but no one thought of those men when they read those words.

*Their dead had been reduced to symbols that helped the living navigate the streets.

*No power, no prestige...they were gone.

*That night in my room I watched part of the PBS special on the Roosevelt's...I pondered their rise to greatness...how Teddy was known all over the world, had awesome human authority and power and respect...but he is gone, long, long gone.

*It doesn't mean these great lives didn't matter...far from it.

*It does mean that their lives only matter in ultimate ways in relationship to the one who has always been and always will be...their lives matter, and our lives matter in relationship to God and in relationship **with** Jesus.

*Yale Scholar Jaroslav (Yahr o slav) Pelikan, said shortly before his death... "If Christ is raised, nothing else matters. If Christ is not raised, nothing matters."

*Some dispute this...But I believe it is beyond dispute...

*We can attach meaning to our lives...but if **we** have attached the meaning, then that meaning dies with us.

*If God says "this is a life with meaning" then that meaning cannot die...because God lives eternally...and in him, we live eternally.

*This perspective is important as we approach our tragic, sobering narrative today.

*But the narrative actually is tragic for the one who seems to have "won" the day.

Mark 6:14 King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him." 15 Others said, "He is Elijah." And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago." 16 But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, the man I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!"

*This Herod (names given to rulers of Galilee, under the Roman empire) was the son of the Herod who lived at the time of the birth of Jesus.

*Reports of the miraculous life of Jesus along with Herod's own guilt & fear lead to the bizarre idea that Jesus was John raised from the dead.

*Herod thought he had silenced (by murder) John's prophetic voice...but now picture this ruler trembling as he thinks to himself.

*"He is back, I can't kill him, I can't silence my own guilt."

*Notice his guilt..."John, the man I beheaded"...as if he, not the executioner had actually taken his head...but in fact...he was the guilty one...he ordered it done.

*Mark then goes back to tell us about what had happened to John...and why Herod rightly felt such guilt.

17 For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married. 18 For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."

*It was against Jewish law for a man to marry his brother's wife while his brother was still alive.

*Both Herod and Herodias had divorced their spouses to marry one another.

*This was not only morally wrong...it was a political nightmare for Herod.

*In order to marry Herodias, Herod had divorced the daughter of King Aretas from a country just to the east, now known as Jordan.

*This action lead to a war between the two countries...and a humiliating defeat for Herod.

*This means his personal actions had caused grief for the larger Roman empire...have we seen this before in our own national history?...yes...all nations have.

*In addition, Herod's actions did not help bring about stability with the Jewish population...just the opposite.

*Add to all this, a social climbing, wicked wife...who was no doubt complaining day and night about this man John who continued to keep their sins in the headlines.

*So this is Herod's self-inflicted unhappy position...but we can add one more factor to the mix.

*Herod was afraid of John...because John was a righteous and holy man.

*Herod was a wicked man, no question...but he was conflicted...he was as weak as he was wicked.

19 So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, 20 because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him.

*Here we find Herodias "nursing a grudge"...feeding her own anger...watching it grow inside her.

*Nursing a grudge (great idiom) means to feed an offense so that it grows larger and stronger.

*Like a mom nurses a child so that it will grow.

*This means that we allow anger, bitterness, hatred to reside in our minds, growing in power over us.

*Last week I became angry at a man I don't even know for doing something I thought to be selfish and for me...inconvenient.

*As I drove home I found myself thinking about that insignificant incident and thinking thoughts like "What was his problem?" Feeling anger at him grow.

*By God's mercy, I realized what I was doing...I was "finding myself thinking" rather than "deciding what to think."

*Kind of like "finding yourself somewhere physically" also known as being lost.

*Versus "choosing to go somewhere."

*We are to not allow our minds to wander off into the mental wilderness....we are to choose where our thinking will take us.

*I decided to pray for the man and consider his interests rather than nurse a grudge against him...surprising how quickly this can happen.

*To nurse a grudge is to "decide to hold onto offenses...to feed and provide shelter in your own mind for your anger and bitterness."

*Nursing a grudge is like having a little snake that seems so harmless, easy to control...watching it grow until one day...that snake is large enough to coil around us and squeeze the life out of us.

*How much better if Herodias had trained herself to kill grudges rather than nurse them.

*But her soul was no doubt largely ruined by this point in her life.

*But even though she was full of hate, she could not act on her rage because Herod stood between her and John.

*Herod was simultaneously afraid of John and drawn to him.

*He is the prototypical man at a crossroad.

*There is some part of him that is drawn to John's life and character and message...but another part of him is caught up in the world of power and corruption and image.

*Herod played at religion like a novice plays at a hobby.

-He had an interest and some knowledge of the Jewish faith without any commitment to the reality of faith in God.

*No doubt it would have cost him if he had gone down the right path...but of course in the end taking the wrong path cost him everything anyway and gained him nothing.

*Later on, about 3 years after Jesus is killed, Herodias will complain because her husband does not get a certain political appointment...this will lead to Herod being removed from his position (deposed) and being sent off into exile.

*He will die far away from the fame and power he treasures and compromises to keep.

*Next, we find out how Herodias was able to get her way with John.

21 Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee.

*Okay, this is one of those perfect settings for maximizing human stupidity.

*A birthday party (given by an undisciplined and foolish person in his own honor)...attended by "important people"

*Imagine the setting and the conversations...a self-important man, surrounded by important people.

-Eating & indulging themselves

-Watching an immoral dance

-Celebrating a guy (they no doubt did not like)

-All trying to impress each other

-All trying out do each other

-Undoubtedly, none of them trusts one another.

*Recipe for disaster...that's what happens.

22 When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests. The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you." 23 And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom."

*Without question this dance was sensuous in nature.

*Herod was prob drunk and trying to look important...and impress his "bros" who were not in the least bit his real "bros"...makes a rash promise.

*It is most likely this was a figure of speech, not an official offer to make her co-ruler.

*In fact, he really didn't that authority...it came from Rome.

*But he did have the ability to give her about anything she could want.

*What did she want?

*She went to ask her twisted mother...who had by now had twisted this daughter's soul.

24 She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?" "The head of John the Baptist," she answered. 25 At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter." 26 The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. 27 So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, 28 and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. 29 On hearing of this, John's disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb

*When the King heard the request...his heart sank...in fact he felt "overwhelming sorrow"

*What is he to do?

*He no doubt expected it would cost him some money, or a party for her and her friends...to keep his promise...no big deal.

*But now he is going to have to deliver a "holy man," a man he respects and fears over to be murdered...or he was going to lose face in front of his fake friends.

*He does what any weak and wicked person would do in those circumstances...he sent an executioner to murder John (who had already been wrongly imprisoned).

*Look at the reasons for him taking this action..."because of his oaths" and "dinner guests."

*How many stupid and wicked things have been done because of rash statements and peer pressure.

*This same kind of hubris led to many dead and wounded and 170 in Jail in Waco last week.

*Men who look at life with these childish emotions and thinking patterns...do great harm.

*In Waco, grown men, some with families and good jobs...got into a murderous fight over the most inane of reasons....we aren't even sure what the reason was...other than it was childish.

*Waco is just a current example of the same spirit and vision that drove Herod.

*Herod could not bear to look weak and foolish in front of his "fake friends" so what does he do?

*He acts with great weakness and folly...he kills a man.

*Really sickening, not just to kill this righteous man...but to do it in a way that is horrific, ISIS like.

*John's head is presented to a broken young lady, who then proudly presents it to her mother.

*I wonder what became of this daughter...imagine the nightmare that must have been her life.
-It's not hard to believe that she came to hate her own mother...since her mother taught her how to hate.

*John's disciples hear about his death and take his body away for burial.

*Matthew tells us that John's students went and told Jesus what had happened...and Jesus was clearly moved by the news.

Matt. 14:13 When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place.

*Jesus wanted to be alone to process his thoughts and emotions.

*He was sad...John was family and John was friend and John was his follower...Jesus was grieved.

*I agree with all those who have said they are happy for Paul Comegys, I am as well...however, like many of you, I'm sad for my own loss.

*Jesus was sad.

*In addition I believe he was grieved (not surprised) by the depth of depravity of the world he had come to save.

*He knows how life could be, should be...and this is so far from it.

*This is empty, lost, foolish, vain life...this is demonic, terrible living.

*He also no doubt wanted to be alone to continue to prepare his own heart and mind for what his future held...he needed to continue to keep his thoughts ordered.

*He was showing us how to train to trust.

*When the time comes when we need perspective and courage...we need to have trained ourselves in those ways...trusting God and training ourselves to avail ourselves of God's grace.

*In a fairly short time, Jesus would also be killed.

*Being alone...the discipline of solitude and fellowship with God the Father...was vital to his preparation for his purpose.

*You don't practice the piano in order to be good at practicing the piano...you practice in order to be able to play.

*We spend time alone with God, time in his word in order to be prepared to interact rightly with God, life and circumstances as they come our way.

*"In every area of our lives we play like we practice."

*Time and effort on the spiritual disciplines are not about "trying to be spiritual" they are about training for real life.

*If Jesus showed us this by his own lifestyle...we would do well to pay attention.

*But Jesus also showed us how we don't get to live our lives as monastics...far removed from the pull of the needs of others.

13 Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. 14 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

*Jesus got a little time alone, long enough to cross the lake...but when he landed...it was "game on" once again.

*I can imagine as he crossed the lake and saw the masses on shore...he paddled a little slower.

*Just a little more time to collect his thoughts, pour out his heart to the Father...before entering the fray once again.

*In the introduction I said that **"the narrative is actually a tragedy for the one who seems to have won the day"**

*It is story of John's triumph and Herod's tragedy.

*The narrative is the epic human story of the battle of the "Long view" vs. the "Short view"

LONG VIEW VS. SHORT VIEW

Article in the Guardian:

"Why can't the world's greatest minds solve the mystery of consciousness"

"One spring morning in Tucson, Arizona, an unknown philosopher named David Chalmers got up to give a talk on consciousness, by which he meant the feeling of being inside your head, looking out – or, to use the kind of language that might give a neuroscientist an aneurysm, of having a soul. Though he didn't realize it

at the time, the young Australian academic was about to ignite a war between philosophers and scientists, by drawing attention to a central mystery of human life – perhaps *the* central mystery of human life – and revealing how embarrassingly far they were from solving it."

*The mystery is..."human consciousness" "What is it?" "Why it is?"

*Christof Koch, the chief scientific officer at the Allen Institute for Brain Science, and a key player in the multibillion-dollar initiative to map the human brain, is about as credible as neuroscientists get.

"I think the earliest desire that drove me to study consciousness was that I wanted, secretly, to show myself that it couldn't be explained scientifically. I was raised Roman Catholic, and I wanted to find a place where I could say: OK, here, God has intervened. God created souls, and put them into people."

*Koch said that he had long ago abandoned such **improbable notions**. Then, he said, in all seriousness, that on the basis of his recent research he thought it wasn't impossible that his iPhone might have feelings.

*Funny...but I don't say it to mock.

*You would have to read the entire article to see why he made that conclusion...but the point of all this is that what would seem like a simple explanation that would not require a great mind to conclude is...consciousness in us is explained by the reality of God who made us.

*The obvious answer seems to be that consciousness comes from consciousness.

*Why is it that the greatest minds cannot come to this simple conclusion?

***Their presuppositions will not allow for it...even though it is the clearest and most obvious conclusion.**

*As the article itself admits...the secular scientific establishment is committed to "physicalism" ...the position that only physical things exist...as its most basic principle.

*This is the foundational, operating principle for these men...therefore to say that our consciousness came from God's...is to these men the same as saying...blah, blah, blah...is the explanation.

*To postulate God as an explanation for anything is to say nothing at all.

*So here's how ingrained this presupposition is in their minds.

*When Koch started talking and writing about human consciousness...he was warned by a colleague.

Koch recalled. "A senior colleague took me out to lunch and said...Stick to more mainstream science! These fringe things – why not leave them until retirement, when you're coming close to death, and you can worry about the soul and stuff like that?"

*So...here is where the greatest minds on earth have taken us.

*Stick to mainstream science(toe the party line)...don't risk tenure...or heaven forbid...the disrespect of your peers.

*Leave the "fringey things until you don't care what people think...you are about to retire or die."

"Then you can worry about the soul and stuff like that."

*That long illustration is what I mean by the short view...

*This view, held by many of the scientific establishment...has seeped into the "consciousness" of the mainstream.

*Rank and file people, the non-"best minds" often "believe" in the long view (heaven, life after death, a better place and all that)

*But most do not believe with a kind of confidence...that affects how they actually spend their lives, time, money...what they do with their thought life, physical bodies and their words.

*They, we have been infected by the presuppositions of the prevailing scientific establishment.

*So we often have in our culture...Lip service to the Long View(eternity) and Lives lived in service to the Short View.

*So from the short view...

*Herod won...John lost...end of story.

*From the "long view"...John had the ultimate victory...he lived and died honoring God, with integrity, and he is now, 2000 years plus and counting, experiencing great joy and purpose.

***To quote Jim Elliott...John "traded what he could not keep for what he could not lose."**

*Meanwhile Herod "squandered his life on emptiness...traded his life for nothing that mattered in the end."

*Herod...traded for what? A few more years of power and impressing his fake friends...then sent into exile where he died...a long, long time ago.

*This narrative...is about embracing the "Long View"

*The gospel is the long view.

***The long view will not always pay off like we think it should in the short run.**

***Case in point...today's narrative.**

*The false prosperity gospel says otherwise.

*But the Bible, the life of John, and Jesus...show us...we must align our expectations with the truth.

***Think about how differently Herod would have acted...if he had lived with a long view.**

***Or how John would acted if he had lived a short view.**

*We didn't invent the idea of heaven in order to find meaning in otherwise meaningless circumstances (like John's murder).

*The long view is the real view...and meaning and purpose follows that reality.

APPLICATION:

***For me the largest, most relevant question is:
"How do I maintain the long view in the short run."**

*Particularly when the short run isn't feeling short.

*Let's go back to John and Jesus, in a narrative before John was murdered.

Matt. 11:2 When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?"

*John was likely being held in a terrible prison near the Dead Sea...living in dire circumstances.

*Maybe he assumed that the Messiah would have done more to stop the evil around him by now, perhaps even free him from prison.

*Why wasn't there more visible evidence that the King was here and the Kingdom had come?

*John was a great man...but he was a man...he struggled with legitimate questions.

*John doesn't have reliable access to good information about all that Jesus was doing and teaching...so he sent his disciples to Jesus to inquire...are you really the Savior or is there someone coming after you?

*His circumstances in the short run...were difficult...and little did he know...about to get worse.

*John is experiencing some things in his life that are causing him to question if Jesus is truly the one he should trust.

4 Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. 6 Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."

*Jesus realizes that John needs some information to verify or confirm that he is indeed the one to place his full confidence in.

*"Yes, go tell John, I am the Messiah...I am rolling back the ravages of sin and human suffering...just as Isaiah predicted."

*"And be sure tell him to not stumble over his own presuppositions...my kingdom is already here, but not yet here in fullness."

6 Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."

*"Tell him, not to lose faith because I'm not doing things in the way and in the time frame he had assumed I would...tell him he will be blessed if he continues to trust me."

*In the same way much of the scientific establishment stumbles over their presuppositions...so to can we stumble over ours.

*"If Jesus were real, faithful, loving, powerful...then he would do or not do this...he would allow or not allow this."

*In the short run...who expects to live a righteous life, do the right thing...and be executed for it?

*Yet this happens the world over...its happening now in parts of the world.

*How can a wicked king just randomly take a good life because of a foolish remark and a desire to save face?

*God...what kind of Kingdom are you running here anyway?

"Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me...who does not stumble over his or her own presuppositions."

***Blessed(happy) is the one who continues to trust (keeps the long view) in spite of a difficult and confusing short run.**

**Keeping the long view in the short run means we must keep doing the work to align our expectations with Scripture and with the actual realities of God in our lives.

*Look at a passage that appears to be very "spiritualized" and impractical but is in fact immensely practical.

Col. 3:1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

***What are the settled realities in this passage?** (things that are done, facts...whether we think it or feel it at all?)

1. You have been raised with Christ where he is seated at the right hand of God.
2. You have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
3. When Christy appears, you also will appear with him in Glory.

My initial response to all that is...Huh?

***Here's what is being said:** Just as the death, the resurrection, and the ongoing life of Christ is an objective reality, a fact...in the same way your life in him is a settled fact.

1. You have been given real, lasting life in Christ...so keep setting your affections that direction.
2. You have in a real sense died to the short view...keep thinking in terms of the long view...don't set your minds on the short view (earthly things)
3. Because here is your guarantee...you will live forever with Christ...this is not all this is...or even most of what is for you.

*Those are the settled realities.

What are our choices? Very practical.

1. Set your heart.
2. Set your mind.

1. Set our hearts: executive function. Choose the affections that affect your directions.
-Keep making investments that will lead to the right affections.
-Do what needs to be done to direct your heart the way it should go.

*This is your choice, you can decide to do this.

2. Set our minds:

*Don't live your life "finding yourself thinking"
-you will find yourself in a lot of mental ditches this way.

*Live your life "Setting your mind on things above"

*Don't underestimate the importance of this...don't underestimate the power of your thoughts.

Keeping the long view in the short run...seeing the ultimate victory of Christ in the death of John...as well as in the circumstances of your life...will require continually setting your heart and mind in Christ's direction.

SMALL GROUP NOTES

May 24, 2015

Intro:

*Who are some figures from history that were renowned and powerful in their own time who stand out to you?

*What do you imagine their lives might have been like, how did others perceive them?

*Who are some of these men and women alive today, who stands out to you?

*What might be some common temptations, struggles, wrong forms of thinking people like this might struggle with?

Read:

Mark 6:14 King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him."

Mark 6:15 Others said, "He is Elijah."

And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago."

Mark 6:16 But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, the man I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!"

Mark 6:17 For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married. **18** For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." **19** So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, **20** because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him.

Mark 6:21 Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. **22** When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests.

The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you." **23** And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom."

Mark 6:24 She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?"

"The head of John the Baptist," she answered.

Mark 6:25 At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

Mark 6:26 The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. **27** So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, **28** and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. **29** On hearing of this, John's disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

Discuss:

1. Have you ever "nursed a grudge"? What does this look like in practical terms? What did it "do" to you?

2. Describe what Herod's "heart" might have been like considering the fact that he: had put John in prison, liked to listen to him, was puzzled by him, and feared him. How would you analyze this man based on this information?
3. Herod murdered John because of "his oaths and dinner guests." What are the principles of sinful human nature embedded in this statement? How have those principles been at work in your own life? How can we act against those principles?
4. Jesus was grieved when he heard of John's death. What are some of the different reasons for his grief? (Other than the fact that he lost his friend?)
5. Jesus spent some time alone after hearing the news. He often got time alone during important or difficult times in his life. He was a busy man yet he made this a priority. What does his example say to you about your own life? What is the value of time alone with God and in meditation in real and practical terms?
6. In the short run it might have appeared that Herod "won" and that he had more power than Jesus. John seemed to have struggled with whether Jesus truly was the one to place his complete trust in. When have you struggled in similar ways? What helped you? What didn't help you during that time?
7. How do presuppositions affect the way we view the circumstances of our lives?
8. One common presupposition is that if we are serious about our faith then God will protect us from difficulties or at least he will lessen the number and severity of them. Does this align with Scripture? Why do you believe that?

Apply:

Col. 3:1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

1. What the settled realities and what are the choices we must make based on this passage?
2. How can you train your mind in a way that will allow you to keep the **LONG VIEW** in the short run? Be practical & realistic?
3. What is a "next" or "additional" choice you can make to assist you in this?

*Remember, "The best plan is the one you will actually do."

THE GOSPEL OF

MARK



**“FOR EVEN THE
SON OF MAN
DID NOT COME
TO BE SERVED,
BUT TO SERVE,
AND TO GIVE
HIS LIFE AS A
RANSOM FOR
MANY.”**

MARK 10:45

J. STILL

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Mark 6:24-26 She went out and said to her mother, “What shall I ask for?” “The head of John the Baptist,” she answered.

At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: “I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter.” The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her.

Mark 6:27-29 So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. On hearing of this, John's disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb

Matt. 14:13a When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place.

Mark 14:13b-14 Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.



The ***LONG VIEW***

Consciousness
The long read

Why can't the world's greatest minds solve the mystery of consciousness?

Philosophers and scientists have been at war for decades over the question of what makes human beings more than complex robots

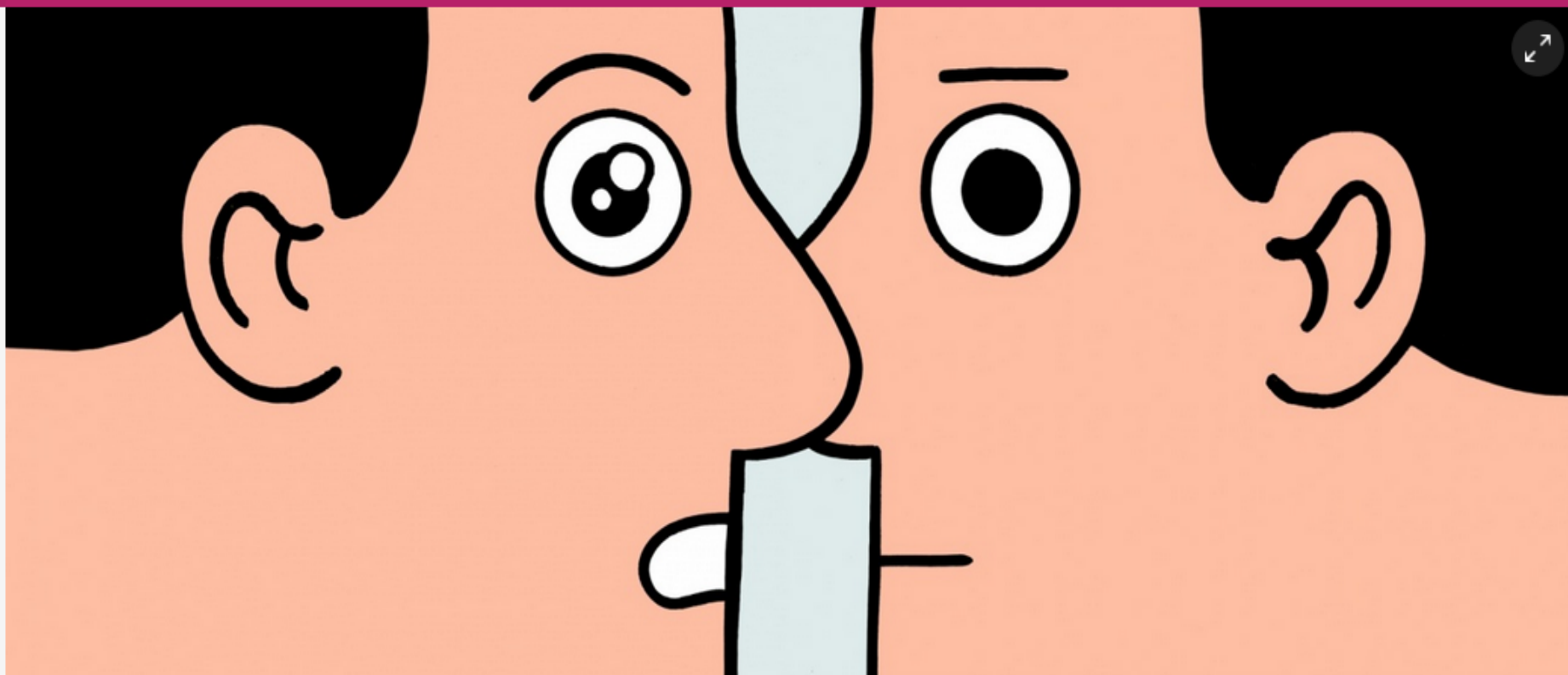


Illustration by Peter Gamlen Photograph: Peter Gamlen

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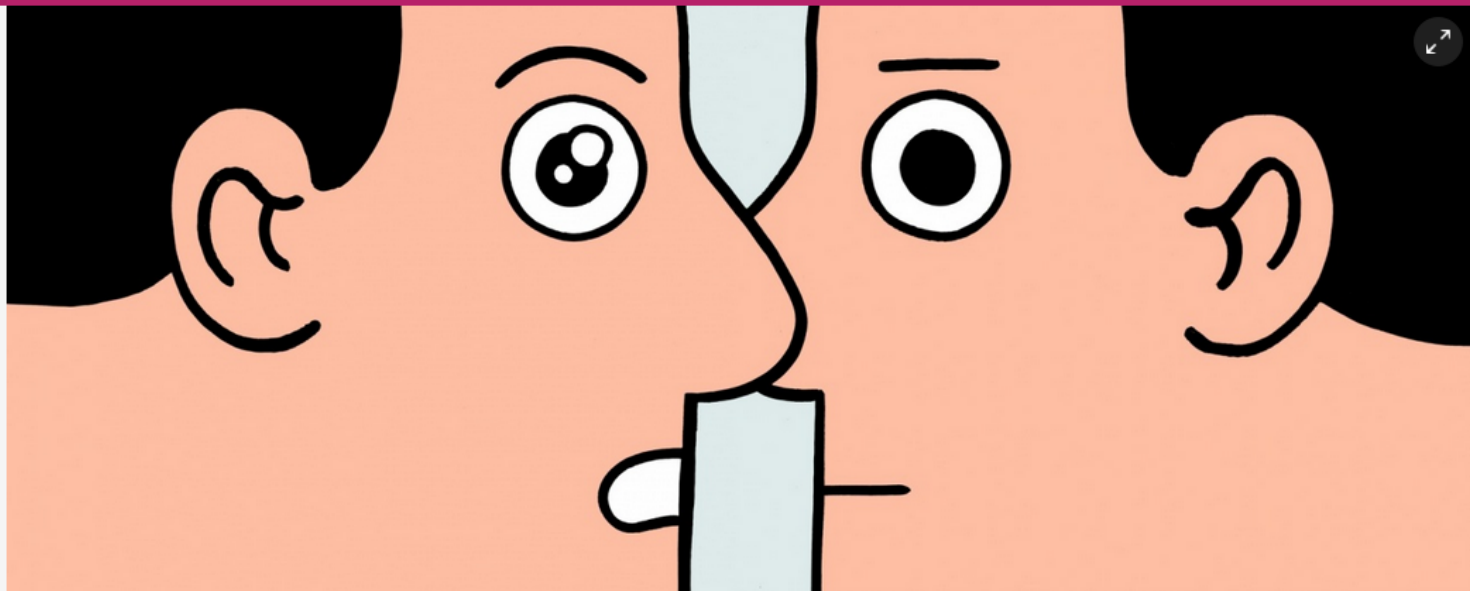


Illustration by Peter Gamlen Photograph: Peter Gamlen

Because their own presuppositions will not allow it.

*Lip service to the **LONG VIEW***

Lives in service to the short view

short view:

"Herod won...John Lost"

LONG VIEW:

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

*The **LONG VIEW** will not always pay off like we think it should in the short run.*

How do I maintain
The ***LONG VIEW*** in the short run?

Matt. 11:2 When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, “Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?”

Matt. 11:4-6 Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me.”

**"Blessed is the man who does not
fall away on account of me."**

-Don't stumble over presuppositions-

Col. 3:1-4 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

**What are the settled facts in this
passage?**

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My Choices

1. Set my heart

2. Set my mind



The ***LONG VIEW***