

## **AMAZING LOVE 05: JESUS BEFORE HEROD**

*As ever, please use (or discard!) these ideas as is most suitable for your group. Don't feel you have to use everything.*

**Please read Mark 6:14-29 and Luke 23:8-12**

### **For discussion:**

1. What are your first thoughts on reading these passages? How would you sum up Herod's character?
2. See Mk 6:17-20: What had God been doing in Herod's life through John the Baptist's preaching? How had God been showing His patient love to Herod? How has God worked in similar ways in your life?
3. How did Herod react to God's patient love? With what result? How did this affect the development of his spiritual journey?
4. Herod was eventually trapped into having John murdered (Mk 6:26-28) and probably thought that was the end of the story. But see Mark 6:14-16: how did God continue to trouble his conscience? How has God continued to pursue you in love when you have gone astray?
5. See Luke 23:8-11: What change has happened in Herod since the days when he liked to hear John the Baptist preaching about Jesus? How did this change come about? What lessons can we learn from Herod's spiritual deterioration?
6. Why do you think Jesus didn't answer Herod's questions? In what way was Jesus' silence yet another appeal by God's love to Herod's conscience?
7. Herod's story shows us God's amazing, patient love, and also the danger of hardening ourselves by resisting that love. Are there any areas of your life where you are resisting God, and growing deaf to His appeals? How can we help one another increasingly to see God's love and to be captivated by it?

### **In Conclusion:**

- Spend time in worship and – where necessary – confession. Pray for an increased attentiveness to God ... and that your heart may be captivated by His love.

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