

The Bible  
stories of great contrasts

Sarah	Hagar
Moses	Pharaoh
Prodigal	Older brother
Mary	Martha
<b>Herod</b>	<b>John</b>

**Herod Antipas' profile**

- ✓ He came from a prominent wealthy family - son of Herod the Great.
- ✓ He was a powerful political figure (Tetrarch).
- ✓ Like his father he was gifted - smart, prudent.
- ✓ He lived a lavish life of hedonistic pleasure.
- ✓ He had John the Baptist imprisoned and beheaded.
- ✓ He was complicit in Jesus' crucifixion.

**John the Baptist's profile**

- ✓ He was Jesus' second cousin.
- ✓ Jesus said he was the greatest of the O.T. prophets - no one born of woman was greater.
- ✓ As forerunner of Messiah he was prophesied in the O.T. as the coming Elijah.
- ✓ He lived an austere life.
- ✓ He baptized Jesus inaugurating Jesus' ministry.
- ✓ He spent his last days in prison before being beheaded.

Mark 6:14-29  
**is a study in contrasts**

<b>Herod</b> Antipas	<b>John</b> the Baptist
Powerful, wealthy, gifted, privileged, prudent	Austere, courageous, humble, servant
Great in the eyes of this world	Great in the eyes of God
He had the title	He had the testimony
<b>in and of the world</b>	<b>in but not of the world</b>

*Romans 12:1*

"I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship."

**When we follow Christ it is expected that we will be living sacrifices.**



## **Common misplaced hopes in the Christian's life.**

- ✓ **Christians are promised an abundant life in this world.** The “abundant Christian life” is modeled by J.B., Jesus, Paul, and the other apostles.
- ✓ **If we are faithful, God will protect and promote us in this life.** Like John the Baptist, & the Apostles we must decrease that Christ may increase.

## **Common misplaced hopes in the Christian's life.**

- ✓ **We can't be happy or have peace without the bread of this world.** The bread of life is Jesus (not other stuff).
- ✓ **If we suffer for Christ it must be dramatic and heroic.** John the Baptist died young, alone, & for a trivial reason (like Jesus, Paul, etc.)

### *Hebrews 11*

“<sup>13</sup> All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were **strangers and exiles in the earth**. . . . <sup>36</sup> and others experienced **mocking and scourging**, yes, also **chains and imprisonment**. <sup>37</sup> They were **stoned**, they were **sawn in two**, they were **tempted**, they were **put to death** with the sword; they went about **in sheepskins, in goatskins**, being **destitute, afflicted, ill-treated** <sup>38</sup> (of whom the world was not worthy), **wandering** in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground <sup>39</sup> And all these having gained approval through their faith, **did not receive what was promised,**”

### *1 Corinthians 4*

“<sup>8</sup> You are already filled, you have already become rich, you have become kings without us; and I would indeed that you had become kings so that we also might reign with you. <sup>9</sup> For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. . . . <sup>11</sup> To this present hour we are both **hungry and thirsty**, and are **poorly clothed**, and are **roughly treated**, and are **homeless**; <sup>12</sup> and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are **reviled**, we bless; when we are **persecuted**, we endure; <sup>13</sup> when we are **slandered**, we try to conciliate; we have become **as the scum of the world**, the **dregs of all things**, even until now.”

### *John 17:15*

“I do not ask Thee to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one.”

### *1 John 2*

“<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father but is from the world”

- ✓ “lust of the flesh” - **natural passions (Me)**
- ✓ “lust of the eye” - **material perspective (Stuff)**
- ✓ “pride of life” - **temporal focus (Now)**

**Example  
of Jesus being IN but not OF  
the world.**

Protection from the evil one does not mean protection from temporal discomfort or physical harm but from faith, hope, and love centered in this life.

**Example  
of Jesus being IN but not OF  
the world.**

**We will feel the heat  
but also know the  
power & peace.**

**Example  
of Jesus being IN but not OF  
the world.**

The measure of our virtue is not in how much we produce or how long we minister but in how faithful we are to our role in God's plan.

**Three areas where we may  
need to shake the dust off our  
feet and move on.**

Ministry  
rejection

Personal  
infirmities

Social  
injustice

Acts  
13:51-52

2 Corinthians  
12:7-10

1 Peter  
3:8-9

**Lessons for us today**

1. Following Christ brings an "abundant life" but not an easy or safe one.
2. Being baptized with the Spirit enables us to withstand the baptism with fire.
3. Our significance in the kingdom is not only in what we accomplish but in how we respond to bearing our cross.

4. Faith brings a relaxed attitude toward life's hardships and courage to respond in a Godly way.
5. When you feel this life has tossed you under the bus you will find you have lots of company including Jesus.
6. Your witness in this world is not in cashing in on its riches but overcoming its temptations.