



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 42 "Who's this Man?" By Pastor Jody May

Luke 9:1-6 ESV

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Apostles

9 And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, **2** and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. **3** And he said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics. **4** And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. **5** And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them." **6** And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

Herod Is Perplexed by Jesus

7 Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening, and he was **perplexed**, because it was said by some that John had been raised from the dead, **8** by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the prophets of old had risen. **9** Herod said, "John I beheaded, but **who is this about whom I hear such things?**" And he sought to see him.

Introduction:

Have you ever had the luxury of going somewhere and the reception you got upon arrival drastically improved when you told people that you were a guest of...

I know it is silly, but I use to like to do this when I visited my mom at the VA hospital when she worked there as the assistant to the chief of staff for a few years and then as the assistant to the chief of surgery until she retired. She was a self-made woman starting at the bottom in the VA as a secretary in Nuclear medicine and then over the years working to the top position of her trade. Over those years she had gotten to know everyone there, and not just in the VA but in Jackson and the UM medical center as well. Doctors knew my mom better than they knew the staff they were working with. So, when I went in that hospital, if I got lost, or I was short on cash in the café line all I had to say was "I am Joan May's son" and most of the time people would smile and say nice things about her. Although I did hear some stories about how she was feared by the doctors when they didn't do their time sheets right. But all I had to do was drop her name and people acted differently. This was the place where everyone knew my mother's name and it had a good



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reputation that was beneficial for me. The power of a person's name has the power to make things happen, get you in or get you out of trouble, or it can scare you.

1. Who is this Man?

In the passage today we see this man Herod, the same guy that arrested JB, we see his reaction to Jesus, because it is Jesus' name that is causing a stir. He is **perplexed**, at a loss, doesn't know what to make of who and what this guy is doing? Herod thought that he had put to death the most popular man in the region that gave him competition, that caused him trouble, but now here is this other guy that looks like he is going to make JB look small time.

Herod asks a question, ⁹ "John I beheaded, but **who is this about whom I hear such things?**" The thrust of the text here is that he's not asking who it was because he knew the name, but he wanted to know who it was behind the name. Herod, I believe knew that this did not bode well for him. **Luke records this question of Herod because he wants to make a point for us in this Gospel**, he wants to show us that everyone knew Jesus' name, but no one was quite sure what it meant, and they were all asking, **"Who is this guy!?"** This is the major question of all the gospels, it is the major question of your life!

Main Point for this Morning:

You see in traditional Evangelicalism we have made this the most fundamental question? **"How must I be saved?"** But with the march of time, post-modern thinking, individualism, relativism, it changed into **"What must I do to be saved?"** Meaning, we now believe that there are actions that we can do that can positively affect our chances of eternal life. But the question that the Gospels keep throwing at us, that the Apostles wanted us to wrestle with is simply to ask yourself, **"Who is this man?"** **It is in the process of discovering who Jesus is that we are saved!**

See how many times Luke has recorded this for us:

- Luke 5:21 - The Scribes and the Pharisees ask, *Who is this that blasphemes for only God can forgive sins? (Priest)*
- 7:20 - JB's disciples ask Jesus, *Are you the one who is to come?*
- 7:39 - A Pharisee thinks to himself at a rockin house party, *Who is this guy, if he was a prophet he would never let this woman touch you.*



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- 7:49 – Party people as the Pharisee's house, *who's is this man that he thinks he can forgive the sins of this prostitute?*
- 8:25 – Jesus' own boys ask amongst themselves, *who's this guy that he even control the winds and waves?*
- 20:2 – Chief Priests and Scribes, *who are you to teach with such authority in this temple?*
- 22:67 – Sanhedrin, *Are you the Son of God? Jesus – You said it!*
- 9:18-20 After all these events Luke gives us a clue to where this was going, **"But who do you say that I am?" and Peter answered, "The Christ of God."**

Peter gave the best answer of His life that day, I may not know everything about you yet Jesus, but what I do know is that God has marked you to be my Messiah, and wherever that takes us I am down! How much easier life would be for all of us, if we would just admit Jesus' Lordship over ourselves and follow Him, but because we think it is a system of what we do to get saved, we miss it altogether. Let me sum this up this way, if I never get a chance to talk to you anymore after today, **I beg you just keep going after this one question, "Who's this man!?"** Because according to God's Word if you do that you will find Him!

Jer. 29:13 ESV

¹³ You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

Prov. 8:17 ESV

¹⁷ I love those who love me,
and those who seek me diligently find me.

Psalms 9:10 ESV

¹⁰ And those who know your name put their trust in you,
for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.

So, let me encourage you today family, if you have not started your reading plan for the summer yet, jump on it now because the Apostle John wants to let you know how seeking Jesus in their accounts work.

John 20:31 ESV

³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.



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2. Who's Asking?

- **Who is Herod?**

Historically we know this guy as Herod the Tetrarch of the Herodian Dynasty. If you were to look up the family tree it would confuse you because they were an incestuous bunch. Some places in scripture he is called a king because that was how he governed but in reality the term tetrarch means ruler of a part in this case in a fourth, the area of Galilee about 25x50 miles wide, he shared control with three other rulers over the Holy Land but all under the control of Tiberius Caesar.

Herod's dad, Herod the Great was in control back when Jesus was born, if you remember him he was the guy that heard about the prophecy and went in and killed all the babies in the area south around Bethlehem. Nobody liked him, he taxed the people like crazy to build a money make for himself the new temple, he wasn't even a Jew but a surrogate ruler put there by the Romans, he was murderous, five days before he died he had his oldest **SON** killed, Antipater, and then to make it hard on everyone split control between 3 siblings we know of for sure, one of the four areas came under Roman Governor control by which becomes Pilate's position. Let me last mention he killed the whole Sanhedrin at one point, all 70 of them, because they did not govern as he wanted through the temple.

As you can see our Herod comes from good stock, he hated the people he ruled and they hated him. He liked Roman culture and put up Idols everywhere. He went so far to build himself a capital in Galilee called Tiberius but he built it over a Jewish burial ground, defiling it, and it acted as Jew repellent because they didn't want to enter the city for it being uncleared. This guy loved wickedness, and on top of that he let all of his dirty laundry out so people could see it. He once went to Rome, saw his brother Phillip's wife of which was really Phillip's niece, got her to leave Phillip so he could marry his niece. This was what JB started pointing out because he was the easy most blatant target for unconfessed sin.

Well you know the rest of the story. He finally had JB arrested but was in fear now because he arrested the most popular speaker of the Jews who they really liked. Was tricked into killing him over lust of his wife's (niece's) daughter and took his head. So, now Herod wants to move on and put this all behind him but now there is this guy named Jesus, whom according to Mat. 14:1 had just popped up on Herod's radar right after he killed JB. You see I think Herod is scared because he thinks it's JB back from the dead with resurrection powers. But whoever this is He does



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miracles, gives his power to other guys to do miracles, and people follow Him by the thousands! The only reason Herod would want to see Jesus is to size Him up for His disposal.

Herod got to meet Jesus one time. In Luke 23, Herod was in town for Passover at the time of Jesus' crucifixion, Pilate sent Jesus to Him since He was from Herod's district, all Herod wanted to see was a sign, treating Jesus like a carnival act. When Jesus didn't even talk to Him, he mocked Him and put fine robes on Him to mock the Jews and Jesus and sent Him back to Pilate. And it is said that he and Pilate became great friends that day.

- **Who are we?**

Herod had a chance, to look at Jesus, to admit his sin, to plead to Jesus to save Him, to get his answer **to who was this man!?** Instead Herod mocked him, clothed Him as king, condemning himself by his admittance to who Jesus was, and rejected Him when he got His answer.

Church, this is the same offer for you this morning. Do you really want to know this man this morning? Here's what we can learn from Herod because in reality we have a lot more in common with Herod than we do with Jesus. **To ask the question who is this man also reflects on us and makes us ask WHO ARE YOU?**

The fact that this man was the Christ, the chosen of God not to just be our king but to be our redeemer through the offering of His perfect life for our sin, that He is raised to return again to judge those that would not accept His Lordship, to cast into Hell that know not who He is. Do we really realize the depth and darkness of our sin, that it is the path that leads to Hell and the wrath of God? Do we get that He is our only hope?

There is no saving ourselves, there is no amount of good works you can do, our only chance is to **keep pushing into Who is this man** but it will **show you** how much you need Him, **you cannot run from who you are when you are asking who Jesus is.** But the good news of the Gospel is that Jesus will even absorb your condemnation and guilt if you will but let Him. Do you know that Jesus this morning? Do you know this man?

Where ever you are at this morning, it is still the same good news for all of us, Jesus saves, and Jesus keeps His Word, He keeps the Father's Word and promises that if you just keep asking that question, if you keep coming to Him in Humility, you will find Him.



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Lamentations 3:25

²⁵ The LORD is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul who seeks him.

There is forgiveness, there is help in repentance, there is restoration if we will but have the courage to seek Him.

Isaiah 55:6-7 ESV

⁶ "Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
⁷ let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

It doesn't matter why you started looking for Jesus in the first place, as long as you realize that is the process of seeking Him you will find your forgiveness.

3. Why we wan't to know!

Luke 8:9–10 ESV

⁹ And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

- **Knowing Jesus is the only thing that makes your life better.**
- **Knowing Jesus means that you have the only name the Father recognizes.**
- **Knowing Jesus happens better in community!**



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PRAYER

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Go in the name of the Father that desired that we know Him through His **Son "that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."** (Jn. 3:16)

Go in the name of the Son **that stands at the door and knocks, if any one of you hear his voice He will come in and eat with you, and you with Him.** (Rev. 3:20)

Go in the name and power of the HS that will **cause you to walk in His statures and will help you observe His ordinances** by which you become a light in the world. (Ez. 36:27)