

BLESSINGS ALWAYS

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Association Minister Message

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REVENGE. “And Herodias had a grudge against him (John the Baptist) and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him.” (Mark 6:19-20). Anger is so prevalent in our national endeavors and in the church. Collaboration and compromise have evaporated in times of disagreement on various issues of decision. Should a certain point of view prevail, often opposition uses retaliation or *REVENGE* at those who disagree with them to get even or get their position accepted.

Herodias certainly was angered at John the Baptist for pointing out how she became Herod’s wife while still married to Herod’s brother Philip. It was quite a predicament that Herod got himself into, for he feared John because he knew John was considered honorable, righteous, holy, and had a large following. Herodias could not persuade Herod to do away with John because of that fear. However, on a festive occasion, his daughter came in and danced before Herod’s guests, and Herod was so pleased and proud that he promised her anything she wanted, even half of the kingdom. When the daughter (also named Herodias) conferred with her mother, who out of *REVENGE*, asked for John’s head on a platter. Herod had to oblige, because he had made the promise in front of many guests. John spoke the truth and Herodias was offended. Her evil anger and *REVENGE* took the life of a righteous and honorable person.

How do we handle when confronted with the truth about our actions? Does fear overwhelm us so much that we seek ways of *REVENGE* to be seen in the best possible light? Herodias only thought of herself and evil prevailed. Marilyn McEntyre wrote in the July 2024, *The Christian Century*: “We need John still: we need the voice of the undomesticated prophet who won’t be silenced but who breaks through our defenses to direct our vision toward the one who not only speaks the truth but embodies it, the one who will help us in our fear and our unbelief.” Let love guide our living. *BLESSINGS ALWAYS.*