



Genesis 16: All about Herodias

Matthew 14:8 **“Prompted by her mother, she said, “Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist.”**

There is something I love about gutsy women. I love it when they have spunk. My daughter was surprised that I have used evil women in the Bible. Am I honoring them? No, but God is giving women (in general) a spotlight in scripture. Why say anything about this woman Herodias? Why mention Jezebel? It's all about Mary, Eve, and Ruth. Good women. Yet, the biggest rolls in the Bible are given to some evil women too.

To be fair, Herodias never actually says anything. She is quoted as asking a favor of her daughter. However, if you comb through this story it's down right evil. I love her attitude. If your going to sin, then go all the way. Imagine a Hollywood actor cheating on his wife with another actor's wife. When confronted he just shrugs it off saying “big deal.” What if the cheated actor complains to the media? It might ruffle feathers. That is what John the Baptist did to Herod. This ruler took his brothers wife. I wonder if he had him killed too? That sort of thing was common. Herod put John in Jail for opening his mouth.

Why then is Herodias strong? Oh, she is. Usually women were subservient to their husbands in those days. It states that Herod liked John. Then in comes Herodias. I bet she was an evil woman. I'm wondering if Herod did not take her as a wife but she enticed him to gain power. She was moving up in the world. Why else would Herod arrest someone he liked? She prodded him. Then at a dance Herodias makes her play. She tells her daughter to ask for the head of John. That's nasty. What's worse is that the head is given to the daughter on a plate and she gives it to her mother.

This is nasty stuff. Herodias is a strong-willed woman. I think she wore the pants because she knew the score with John. She also knew when to ask. It says that Herod did not want to do it. She wanted blood for the public flogging John had given them over their adultery. Herodias waited, biding her time. Even the daughter seems evil just doing it for mom. I bet she put that head on her table so everyone could see. I'm sure Herodias was giving everyone the look saying "This is what happens to those who tick me off."

Herodias is a strong woman. She was willing to toss one husband for another. She was willing to stress her husband out. This lady would use any means (daughter) to get revenge. Evil? Sure, but gutsy and nerves of steel too. God tells us stories of all kinds of people. The Woman who bothers a king until he relented. Mary pondering her heart. Jezebel threatening a man of God. Herodias is never mentioned again, yet she is pivotal in the Jesus story. It bothered him greatly. She is a strong but a nasty woman in the Bible.