



## Small Group Questions: Marked for Repentance

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### Read

Mark 6:14-29; 1 Timothy 1:19; Ephesians 4-25; Proverbs 27:6; and 1 John 1:9

### Reflect

John the Baptist confronted Herod Antipas with the truth that Herod's relationship with Herodias, his brother's wife, was against God's law. Although Herod was greatly disturbed, he chose to ignore John's admonitions to repent. Herod respected John as a holy man and protected him. So, how did he end up being the one to have John executed?

In Mark 6:14-29, we see how a series of Herod's decisions and actions led him to do something he never wanted or expected. Have you ever found yourself in a situation, asking, "How did I get here?"

Pastor Josh Surratt offers us three ways to help us live with no regrets.

1. Get good at telling and receiving the truth.
  - a. Do you view yourself as a peacemaker or more of a blunt truth teller?
    - i. Are you afraid to bring up difficult topics?
  - b. How have you dealt with someone close to you having a blind spot that was on its way to trouble?
  - c. What is your initial reaction to someone highlighting a truth in your life? Do you become defensive? Hold a grudge? Avoid that person afterward and ignore what he or she said? Openly accept feedback?
  - d. If you've had someone speak uncomfortable truth into your life, what was the result?
2. Choose your pain carefully.
  - a. Repentance is the right kind of pain. Can you think of an issue that you need to address with yourself? With someone close to you?
  - b. How will you approach it? Do you have a testimony on what to do, or not do?
  - c. Will you commit to addressing it in the short-term to avoid letting it affect your entire life?
  - d. Have you found yourself avoiding people who you've asked to hold you accountable?
3. Keep a calculator handy.
  - a. Every choice has a cost. Learn to ask, "What will this cost me?"
  - b. What are some practical things you can decide to do in advance to help ensure that you take time to count the potential cost before saying or doing something?

Is there someone you need to ask forgiveness for trying to help you in the past? Through repentance and grace, God helps us rewrite our stories. Where is your story leading?

### Respond

What do you feel God is asking you to do in response to this message? What is your next step? How can your small group support you and hold you accountable in this?