

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

OCTOBER 2026

7-8 “All these things came to the ears of Herod the tetrarch and caused him acute anxiety, because some people were saying that John had risen from the dead, some maintaining that the prophet Elijah had appeared, and others that one of the old-time prophets had come back.

9 “I beheaded John,” said Herod. “Who can this be that I hear all these things about?” And he tried to find a way of seeing Jesus.” (Luke 9:7-9, JB PHILIPS)

Early in Jesus ministry, Herod heard of the things He was saying and doing, causing him to wonder and have ‘*acute anxiety*’ over having John the Baptist beheaded. Luke does record later in his gospel that Herod did finally get to see Jesus when He was sent by Pilate to Herod for Herod’s judgment upon Him. Luke records that Herod was glad to see Jesus, but when Jesus wouldn’t respond to him as Herod thought He should, Luke records, ‘*Herod with his soldiers treated Him with contempt and mocked Him.*’ (Luke 23:11) In summary, Herod got to look at Jesus but never saw Him. This cardinal sin is committed time and time again when people look at Jesus to see Him as they want Him to be but never see Him for who He was and forever is.

From the writing of Cardinal Nguyen Van Thuan, imprisoned by the Vietnamese government for 13 years during which time he secretly sent prayers and spiritual writings to his flock:

Every day, in the midst of the crowds,
with Your disciples and apostles,
You ate and drank and taught....
Some said You were John the Baptist or Elijah.
Others called You Master, Lord, Son of David.....
Seeing the mobs gathering around You,
Your relatives thought You had gone mad
and wanted to take You home.
The disciples on the road to Emmaus
mistook You for a traveler.
Magdalene believed You to be the gardener.
The apostles thought You were a ghost.
You often proclaimed
that You were sent by the Father.
Why were there so few people who understood
and who recognized You?
You were too strange,
too unimaginably good and generous!
You pardoned! You loved!
You were so simple!

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It is in the practice of forgiveness which then opens the door to love that anyone ever gets to see Jesus. It is really that simple.

With love,

