

# St John Church of Christ

November 1, 2020

**Now meeting Online Only**

**ONLINE**



Our programs are available over the internet starting Sundays at 10:30 for Adult Class and 11:00 for Worship. Just visit

[www.StJohnChurchOfChrist.org](http://www.StJohnChurchOfChrist.org)

and select "Sermons" from the menubar at the top, or click this link to visit our page on YouTube:

[St. John Church of Christ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

## In Spite of His Upbringing

### Herod Antipas



could have given Luke an eye-witness account of life within the royal family (Luke 1:2, 3).

Think of the education in treachery that characterized Manaen's boyhood years! Lying, double-dealing, back-stabbing, and all that accompanied the sinister politics of the Herodian family. It was all a part of Manaen's childhood.

Consider the life of his foster-brother Antipas. Herod Antipas was the ruler who had John the Baptist beheaded, and he was the one who returned Jesus to Pilate for execution. Christ called him "that fox" because of his cunning (Luke 13:32), and it was common knowledge Antipas was superstitious (Matthew 14:1, 2). Antipas, the childhood companion of Manaen, was wholly immoral. He stole his brother's wife, murdered his enemies, and even plotted against his own family!

Why then was Manaen able to become a great Christian leader (Acts 13:1) while Herod Antipas plunged deeper and deeper into debauchery? The answer is written upon their hearts. Just as the sun melts butter, exposure to the gospel melted the sensitive heart of Manaen. However, the same sun that melts butter also hardens clay. The earthy heart of Herod became like stone. As you read this article, the light of the gospel is shining upon your heart. Antipas finished his days as an outcast in exile. Manaen ended his life surrounded by loving disciples. Which will it be for you?

"That's just the way I was raised!" People have always tried to pass the blame for their shortcomings back to their parents, but I'd like to point out an exception to that excuse. It comes from an overlooked text from the book of Acts. Chapter 13 opens with a list of the leaders of the church in Antioch. These are fine, godly men with unpronounceable names. But consider the life of Manaen, the foster brother of Herod the Tetrarch, Antipas (Acts 13:1).

According to the Jewish historian Josephus, Manaen's father was an Essene (a strict religious sect of the Jews known for their piety). While Herod the Great was a young man, Manaen the elder came to him and told him that he would be a great ruler one day. When that came to pass, Herod the Great invited Manaen and his son to become part of the royal household. Thus Manaen the younger was raised as a foster brother to Herod's children, Antipas and Archelaus. Later, after Manaen became a Christian, he



## Hurry Sickness

Half a century ago, an upholsterer from San Francisco made a curious discovery. He was called to a cardiologist's office to reupholster some chairs in the waiting room. When he looked at the furniture, he wondered immediately what was wrong with the patients. Only the front edge of the seats and the first few inches of the armrests were worn out. "People don't wear out chairs this way," he said.

Five years later, in 1959, Drs. Meyer Friedman and Ray Rosenman began to put the pieces together. They had noticed an odd pattern shared by many of their cardiac patients, a pattern that centered on a "chronic sense of time urgency." Patients showed irritability at being made to wait in line, had difficulty relaxing, and were anxious over delays. Obsessed with not wasting a moment, they spoke quickly, interrupted often, hurried those around them, and were forever rushing. Hence the waiting room chairs: the patients sat on the edge of their seats, nervously fidgeting at the arms of the chairs as they watched time tick by.

The cardiologists called the new disease "hurry sickness."

According to Friedman, hurry sickness "arises from an insatiable desire to accomplish too much or take part in too many events in the amount of time available." The hurry-sick person is unable to acknowledge that he can do only a finite number of things. "As a consequence, he never ceases trying to 'stuff' more and more events in his constantly shrinking reserves of time."

From David W. Henderson, *Tranquility* (Baker Books), page 131

## News & Prayer Requests



*Maren and her Mommy*

We've received a report on Maren, the little two-year-old in Great Bend, from John, her father:

"Maren is back on medication that stimulates cell growth and her counts have been going in the right direction the past two days. The results of her latest bone marrow biopsy were very encouraging - everything looks good. Yay!"

God will see us through while we remain faithful. We are not in the promised land yet brothers and sisters, which means we are in the desert wilderness where we put our faith in the love of God to give us what we need. And God is faithful. He is our rock.

Please continue to pray for this brave little girl and her family!

Please continue to pray for Paul and Bernice (John's friends in Washington) as he wrestles with cancer, Curtis (in Pratt), and especially for our teachers, students, and staff in these dangerous times!

This is a challenging time for our country. Let's remember the apostle's admonition:

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

*1 Timothy 2:1 - 2*

## Moving Help

The Rice family needs help moving next Saturday morning, November 7th. They have professionals to move the big stuff, but would love some help with the smaller items. By the way, they are only moving 300 yards!