Introduction:
A. John the Baptist was a strong preacher.
   1. Forerunner of Jesus. (Matt. 3:2,3).
   2. Confronted sin even in high places.
B. Herod was a weak king.
   1. Ruled by a wicked wife.
   2. Ruled by passion rather than reason.
   3. Gave in to pressures and executed John - was sorry, but not Godly sorrow (cf. 2 Cor. 7:10):

Discussion:
I. The Pressure of Unresolved Guilt.
      1. Added guilt to guilt. (“also added to this”)
   B. People react differently when confronted with guilt
      1. Some acknowledge it, but do nothing about it.
      2. Some, like Herod, fight reproof - sink deeper “quicksand” of sin.
      3. Some, like the pentecostians, repent and be baptized as alien sinner. (Acts 2:36-38)

II. The Pressure of Unwise or Unlawful Relationships.
   A. Herod dominated by unlawful wife and step-daughter.
      1. Had no business with them in first place.
      2. Should have controlled them in second place.
   B. Many dominated by personal relationships.
      1. Social or business relationships.
      2. Family relationship.
         b. Undisciplined children.
         d. Unwise marriage. (cf. 1 Cor. 7:28).
         e. How many sorrowful situations can be explained by “for he had married her”?

III. The Pressure of An Unwholesome Atmosphere.
   A. Wild birthday party adversely influenced Herod. (cf. Mk. 6:19-20).
      1. Lascivious dance. (Mk. 6:23).
      2. Ungodly guests. (Mk. 6:26).
   B. Unwholesome atmosphere places Christians at disadvantage.
      1. Compromising situations for social and economic reasons.
      2. Drinking and lasciviousness (exposure, speech, gestures & general environment) leads to no good.
      3. Such worldliness is in compatible with Christian behaviour. ( 1 Cor. 5:9-13; Jas. 4:4; 1 Pet. 4:1-4; 1 John 2:14,16).

Conclusion:
A. Remove guilt.
B. Resist family pressures and those of other relationships.
C. Avoid compromising environment.