

~HEROD, PARTY FOLLOWERS OF (183)

- These were evidently Jewish partisans or party followers of the Herodian dynasty, which received its authority from Rome. During Jesus Christ's earthly ministry Herod Antipas headed this dynasty.
- There is no mention of the Herodians in secular history, and little Scriptural reference is made to them.
- So they dispatched to him their disciples, together with party followers of **Herod**, saying; Teacher, we know you are truthful and teach the way of God in truth, and you do not care for anybody, for you do not look upon men's outward appearance. ([Matthew 22:16](#))
- At that the Pharisees went out and immediately began holding council with the **party followers of Herod** against him, in order to destroy him. ([Mark 3:6](#))
- Next they sent forth to him some of the Pharisees and of the **party followers of Herod**, to catch him in his speech. ([Mark 12:13](#))
- However, there are strong objections to believing, as some do, that the Herodians were household domestics of **Herod**, that they were his soldiers, or that they were his court officials.
- Politically, the **Herodians** stood on middle ground, opposed on the one hand by the Pharisees and Jewish zealots who advocated a Jewish kingdom completely independent of Roman control, and on the other hand by those who advocated complete absorption of Judea by the Roman Empire.
- Some of the Sadducees, rated as free thinkers and moderates in Judaism, probably belonged to the Herodian school of thought. This latter conclusion is drawn from the reports of Matthew and Mark as to Jesus statement about leaven. According to;
- Jesus said to them; Keep your eyes open and watch out for the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees. ([Matthew 16:6](#))
- And he began to order them expressly and say; Keep your eyes

open, look out for the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of **Herod**. (**Mark 8:15**)

- Repeating the word leaven emphasized that there was a difference in the corrupt teachings of the two parties. Instead of **Herod**, this latter text reads **Herodians** in some manuscripts, namely; Chester Beatty Papyrus No. 1 [P⁴⁵], the Codex Washingtonianus I, and the Codex Koridethianus.] [The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible, edited by G. A. Buttrick, 1962, Vol. 2, p. 594][Our Bible and the Ancient Manuscripts, by Sir Frederic Kenyon, 1958, pp. 215,216]
- There is one thing certain. The **party followers of Herod** and the Pharisees, though openly opposed to one another in their political and Judaistic views, were solidly united in their violent opposition to Jesus.
- On at least two occasions these opposing parties consulted together on how best to do away with their common opponent. The first reported instance was shortly after Passover, **31 C.E.**, during Jesus great Galilean ministry.
- Upon seeing Jesus restore a man's dried-up hand on the Sabbath, the Pharisees went out and immediately began holding council with **the party followers of Herod** against him, in order to destroy him.
- Once again he entered into a synagogue, and a man was there with a dried-up hand. (**Mark 3:1**)
- So they were watching him closely to see whether he would cure the man on the Sabbath, in order, that they might accuse him. (**Mark 3:2**)
- And he said to the man with the withered hand; Get up and come to the center. (**Mark 3:3**)
- Next he said to them; Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do a good deed or to do a bad deed, to save or to kill a soul? But they kept silent. (**Mark 3:4**)
- And after looking around upon them with indignation, being thoroughly grieved at the insensibility of their hearts, he said to the man; Stretch out your hand. And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored. (**Mark 3:5**)
- At that the Pharisees went out and immediately began holding council with the party followers of Herod against him, in order to

destroy him. (**Mark 3:6**)

- **After departing from that place he went into their synagogue. (**Matthew 12:9**)**
- **And, look! a man with a withered hand! So they asked him, Is it lawful to cure on the Sabbath? That they might get an accusation against him. (**Matthew 12:10**)**
- **He said to them; Who will be the man among you that has one sheep and, if this falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not get hold of it and lift it out? (**Matthew 12:11**)**
- **All considered, of how much more worth is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do a fine thing on the Sabbath. (**Matthew 12:12**)**
- **Then he said to the man; Stretch out your hand. And he stretched it out, and it was restored sound like the other hand. (**Matthew 12:13**)**
- **But the Pharisees went out and took counsel against him that they might destroy him. (**Matthew 12:14**)**
- **The second reported occasion was nearly two years later, just three days before Jesus was put to death, when disciples of the Pharisees and party followers of Herod joined forces in putting Jesus to the test in the matter of taxation.**
- **These men were secretly hired, to pretend that they were righteous, in order, that they might catch him in speech, so as to turn him over to the government and to the authority of the governor.**
- **And, after observing him closely, they sent out men secretly hired to pretend that they were righteous, in order, that they might catch him in speech, so as to turn him over to the government and to the authority of the governor. (**Luke 20:20**)**
- **They prefaced their direct question about taxes with words of flattery designed to throw Jesus off guard. However, Jesus, perceiving their cunning wickedness, declared,**
- **Then the Pharisees went their way and took counsel together in order to trap him in his speech. (**Matthew 22:15**)**

- So they dispatched to him their disciples, together with party followers of **Herod**, saying; Teacher, we know you are truthful and teach the way of God in truth, and you do not care for anybody, for you do not look upon men's outward appearance. (**Matthew 22:16**)
- Tell us, therefore. What do you think? Is it lawful to pay head tax to Caesar or not? (**Matthew 22:17**)
- But Jesus, knowing their wickedness, said; Why do you put me to the test, hypocrites? (**Matthew 22:18**)
- Show me the head tax coin. They brought him a denarius. (**Matthew 22:19**)
- And he said to them; Whose image and inscription is this? (**Matthew 22:20**)
- They said; Caesar's. Then he said to them; Pay back, therefore, Caesar's things to Caesar, but God's things to God. (**Matthew 22:21**)
- Well, when they heard that, they marveled, and leaving him they went off. (**Matthew 22:22**)
- And they questioned him, saying; Teacher, we know you speak and teach correctly and show no partiality, but you teach the way of God in line with truth. (**Luke 20:21**)
- Is it lawful for us to pay tax to Caesar or not? (**Luke 20:22**)
- But he detected their cunning and said to them. (**Luke 20:23**)
- Show me a denarius. Whose image and inscription does it have? They said, Caesars. (**Luke 20:24**)
- He said to them; By all means, then, pay back Caesars things to Caesar, but God's things to God. (**Luke 20:25**)
- Well, they were not able to catch him in this saying before the people, but, in amazement at his answer, they said nothing. (**Luke 20:26**)