I. **Slide#1 Announce:**
   A. **Welcome** our High Schoolers in with us this morning.
   B. **Slide#2 Israel Info Meeting:** tomorrow night **7pm**, in the **New Rm.** March 21-April 1.
   C. **Slide#3-5 Cambodia:** Chad/silk screen training at ATC [explain not showing faces, not re-exploit]
      1. **Slide#6,7** Former Brothel we helped purchased (3 weeks out) Note 3rd story.
      2. Reestablished relationships with AIM & discuss future trips. Slide#8(Chad tried convert to Buddhism)

II. **Slide#9 Intro: Death of a Conscience**
   A. Your **Conscience** is your **warning system**.
      1. Like **physical pain**, which **warns** of damage to the body - the **conscience** can warn of damage to the soul!
      2. So what happens when one’s **neurological** warning system goes out? - You think of the leper who can’t feel anymore, & the complications from that.
      3. So what happens when one’s conscience warning system goes out? - We learn this morning from Herod, how his conscience went from **troubled** to a **dead** one.
   B. **Slide#10 So, what’s a conscience?**
      1. One teenager defined it as, “**Something** that makes you tell your **mom** before your **sister** does!”
      2. Kent Hughes said, “it is the **warning light** that goes off in your soul.”
      3. “It’s a **Walkie-Talkie** in your heart by which **God speaks** to you.”
      4. Slide#11 MarkTwain, **Man** is the only animal that **blushes** & the only animal that **needs to**.
      5. Slide#12,13 Paul said in Rom.2:14,15, for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts **accusing** or else **excusing** them. - So your conscience **accuses** or **excuses** what you do.

III. **THE DEATH OF CONSCIENCE**
   A. **Slide#14 A TROUBLED CONSCIENCE** (14-16)
   B. The “I” is emphatic in the Greek, **I am the one – I did it**. The sense is he said it again & again.
      1. “**I did this**”…Yet not a **confession**. [Like the V.B. player who gets in the habit of just mouthing, **My bad**, yet doesn't do anything to fix her errors]
   C. **Slide#15 A GUILTY CONSCIENCE** (17-19)
D. Slide#16 Herod Antipas – Tetrarch of Galilee & Perea(in Pink). He was his father’s son in all that was worst in his father’s character.

E. Slide#17 - His Father? Herod the Great, patriarch of the corrupt Herodian dynasty.
   1. Antipas went to Rome. Stayed with his ½ bro Philip 1. He was intrigued with Herodias, his wife. The two eloped, although both were married at the time.
   2. Oh, & Philip 1st was Herodias’ uncle. Which she now left, for her other uncle!
   3. So here Herod Antipas married his niece & his sister-in-law.
      a) What “matrimonial mayhem” we find in this family.

F. Slide#18 A DOUBLED-MINDED CONSCIENCE (20)

G. 1st troubled by God, now by the man of God.

H. Note, Herod feared John…& heard him gladly. Here we have a man caught in 2 minds:
   1. He rejects him but respects him.
   2. He alternated between the bed of Herodias, and the cell of John.
   3. He loved the beauty of a holy life, but he loved his sin as well.
   4. He’s fascinated by his message, but afraid of its consequences.
      a) Do you ever find yourself in a similar dilemma? Caught between conscience & lifestyle.
   5. Herod loved John, but he never loved John’s Master.
      a) Loved John in that he protected him (i.e. from Herodias, & that by keeping him in prison?) Coward!
      b) Slide#19 Josephus tells us this all took place in Machaerus (Ma-KEER-is; aka Mukawir). A desert fortress-palace perched 3800’ above the Dead Sea (East side). Below were dungeons/cisterns which can still be seen today w/their iron hooks.
   6. What a contrast between them: Herod the Coward - John the Courageous.
      a) Herod a mighty monarch, John an imprisoned preacher…yet the king is afraid of him.
      b) You know the famous preacher George Whitefield was best of friends with Benjamin Franklin(deist)…they called them the religious odd couple.
      c) Warning - You will spiritually travel only as far as Herod & no farther, unless Grace leads you to Jesus Christ.

I. Slide#20 A TRAPPED CONSCIENCE (21-25)

J. A little wine, a little drunken passion, a little lust…a receipt for disaster!
   1. Especially for this Tipsy Tetrarch.

K. (22) SNAP!...went the Herodias trap.
   1. Slide#21 Sin is like a spider weaving a web…it starts with one little strand.

L. Pride will not allow him to go back on his word.
1. **Slide#22** Herodias **web** is weaved. **Herod’s conscience** is the fly now caught in the middle.
   a) It’s like Herod says, “I can’t avoid the wrong, & I can’t do what’s right!”

M. Here lies a wonderful **compliment** for John…“his head was worth half the kingdom!!!”

N. **Slide#23** **A SEARED CONSCIENCE** (26-29)
O. He was **sorry**, but **seared** none the less.
   1. As per **Herod’s soul**, this was God’s last loving **Shock-Treatment** for his heart…
       **Clear!** (i.e. Defibrillator)

P. Don’t feel sorry for **John. He got an instant trip to glory!**
Q. Feel sorry for **Herod.** For his party was over. His light is about to go out.
   1. The guillotine fell on Herod that day.
      a) Oh, he took Johns **head**…but lost **his own conscience**.

R. **Slide#24** Mt.14:12 adds Then his disciples came & took away the body & buried it, & **went & told Jesus.**
   1. **Slide#25** Where do you go if someone close to you dies? Where do you take your hurts? **Take them to Jesus** like the disciples did.

S. Well Herod, you can silence **one voice**, but you cannot silence the Word of God.

T. **Slide#26** **A DEAD CONSCIENCE** (Lk.23:8-12)
U. This is the **last** biblical record of Herod.
   1. **Slide#27** Instead **Caligula** *(new Emperor)* banished Antipas to **Lyons in Gaul**, where he died in great misery.
   2. His **conscience** was **long dead, buried, & the tomb of his heart sealed!**

V. **Now read the passage! Lk.23:8-12**
   1. Jesus **answered him nothing/not a word!** There was no need to.
   2. His **conscience** was **long dead, buried, & the tomb of his heart sealed!**

W. The End of his story? - Herodias prevailed on Herod Antipas to accompany her to Rome to demand a favor.
   1. **Slide#28** Instead **Caligula** *(new Emperor)* banished Antipas to **Lyons in Gaul**, where he died in great misery.
   2. His new buddy **Pilate** also was stripped of power and died in shameful exile w/him.

X. Herod lost his conscience. *It was 1st lovingly troubled, then tormented, then guilt ridden, next double-minded, finally trapped, subsequently seared,...& lastly dead as a door nail!*
   1. It’s so important for **you** to take care of **your conscience.**
   2. It can be **dulled.** It can be **seared.**
3. Slide#28 Paul told Felix, I always try to maintain a clear conscience before God and all people. How?

Y. *** Invite up worship team & ushers to set up.

Z. Slide#29 A CLEANSED CONSCIENCE (communion)

AA. So how do we protect our conscience against being dulled, even seared? [4 things]
   1. Slide#30a Let your conscience be guided by the Word of God [Do what the Bible says is right]
   2. Slide#30b Let your conscience be guided by the Holy Spirit. [Rom.9:1, With Christ as my witness, I speak with utter truthfulness. My conscience and the Holy Spirit confirm it]
   3. Slide#30c Listen to your conscience. [The devil wants you to ignore your conscience]
   4. Slide#30d Keep your conscience clean through confession of sin and acceptance of God’s forgiveness.
      a) Heb.9:14…the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

BB. Bread: confession of sin
   1. Lord we recognize, like all our other faculties, our conscience has been perverted by the fall.
   2. Lord we confess not listening to the conscience You’ve implanted in us.
   3. Lord we confess sometimes tuning out that inborn sense of right & wrong.
   4. Lord we understand & confess this has damaged our very soul, & we cry out for Your forgiveness.
   5. God heal our consciences that we have violated. Even now.

CC. Cup: acceptance of God’s forgiveness
   1. God Thank You for this warning system you have built in us.
   2. God Thank You for 2nd chances, after we’ve blown it.
   3. God Thank You for regenerating us with a clear/clean conscience this morning.
   4. God Thank You for letting us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.