Scripture—Matthew 14:3-12, Mark 6:14-22, Luke 3:1-20. Luke 23:34

Starting help:

- 1) Describe your relationship with your mother. What can you do today that would honor her and please God?
- 2) Explain how you believe God views people's personal heritage. Is anyone ever disqualified from being his child with the opportunity to talk with him?
- 3) Write out how a divorce near you has influenced your life
- 4) Discuss who you think Salome needs to forgive and why.
- 5) When have you learned a huge lesson from God after you did something awful?

6) What would you say to Salome if
she came to you for advice about
any of the questions above, or ask
why you think God is real?

This is to the God the Jews say is everywhere,

I'm furious...confused and disgusted too! Right now I'd like nothing better than to spit in my mother's face. She is awful! She's manipulative, vengeful, and controlling. On top of that—last night gave me a view of my own character that makes me nauseous.

Do most daughters love and hate their mothers at the same time? Sometimes I think mother's ability to beguile and maneuver people is charming. Not last night! I hate knowing she used me to have someone killed. It was...horrible! Absolutely HORRIBLE!

Oh! Where do I begin? Are you everywhere and do you already know everything that has happened? I am not sure I believe you are real. Does being Idumean, a descendent of Esau from the country of Edom, and an Arab disqualify me from having an audience with you? If I believe you are only make believe, am I writing this just to get my feelings out? I don't think anyone really cares about me.

Whether you are there or not I want to start at the beginning. I need to put my thoughts down where I can see them.

A while ago Herod Antipas came to our home and persuaded my mother to leave my father. Mother has always been more impressed with palace and court business than in me. I doubt I'll ever be able to forgive her for taking me from my home and keeping me from being near my father, he's called Herod Philip 1. I would though, have a difficult time proving he loves me. I don't think mother is hiding anything, and as far as I know he hasn't tried to contact me at all.

To think I was excited about the invitation to dance at my stepfather's birthday party. The Galilean's call him KING and he's my uncle too. My father Philip is his half-brother. Herod is really a tetrarch and so powerful, yet my mother can often get him to do whatever she wants. Being manipulated is an incredible sign of weakness isn't it? And I let her do it to me too! How dense could I be?