

The Gospel of Matthew #98

CONFLICTS AND CONTRASTS

Matthew 13:51 – 14:12

Context: Major Sections so far:

Works: Narrative 1: ch 1-4: Birth & beginning of ministry
Words: Teaching 1: ch 5-7: Serm on Mt: Lifestyle & blessings of disciple
Works: Narrative 2: ch 8-9: Compassionate authority in action; beg crits
Words: Teaching 2: ch 10: Commission to Kingdom ministry: Warnings & encouragement
Works: Narrative 3: ch11-12: Apparent failure: doubts, unbelief, attacks
Words: Teaching 3: ch 13: Parables of the Kingdom
Works: Narrative 4: ch 14-17: Transition from Public (Who) to Disciples (What)

13:51 -- 14:36 characterized by **5 Cs** in 3 stories
Climaxed by a new confession of **Who** Jesus is.

Today: first story and first **2 Cs**:

I. CONFLICTS

A. Jesus in His hometown: 13:51-58

Transition: disciples will display treasures of the Kingdom
But this world rejects them
Even Jesus in His own hometown of Nazareth
Not much evidence of Jesus' power because of their lack of faith. What would we see if we trusted Him more?

(Note ref to His 4 brothers and a number of sisters.
NOT Mary's only child.)

B. John murdered by Herod: 14:1-12

A faithful prophet who spoke the truth. It cost him his life.
A terrible example of 11:12

II. CONTRASTS

A. Herod v John

1. Their character
 - a) John righteous; Herod evil (Exod 20:14; Lev 20:21; Exod 20:13)
 - b) John courageous; Herod weak
 - c) John a man of faith: Herod superstitious
2. Their ends
John not to be pitied but envied (Matt 5:11-12)
Herod not to be envied but pitied (Psm 73)

B. Herod v Jesus

1. Herod begins as a powerful king
 - Deposed in this life
 - Condemned for eternity
2. Jesus begins as a homeless prophet
 - Raised from the dead
 - Rules forevermore in Glory
3. Contrast this feast with the one Jesus will give: v13ff

So two lessons:

1. If you are in Christ's Kingdom, you will always feel tension and conflict with this world
2. Things are not what they seem!
See beyond this world's power and glory.
And live for the Big Picture and Eternity