

LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR HAS
COME, WEEK 16

TITLE: GET HIM UP!

TEXT: LUKE 3:15-20

INTRODUCTION: (1) R. KENT HUGHES IN HIS COMMENTARY ON LUKE TELLS OF THE STORY OF LISTENING TO THE LATE E. V. HILL, THE BLACK PASTOR OF MOUNT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH IN THE WATTS SECTION OF LOS ANGELES.

* AND I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF HEARING HIM ON CASSETTE YEARS AGO, HE WAS A FIERY KIND OF PREACHER.

** WELL, HUGHES TELLS THE STORY THAT THERE WAS AN ELDERLY LADY AT THE CHURCH WHERE HILL WAS PASTORING YEARS AGO.

*** AND THEY CALLED THIS WOMAN 1800 BECAUSE NO ONE KNEW HOW OLD SHE WAS.

**** WELL, 1800 WAS HARD ON UNSUSPECTING VISITING PREACHERS, FOR SHE WOULD SIT ON THE FRONT PEW AND AS SOON AS THE **PREACHER BEGAN SHE WOULD SAY, "GET HIM UP!" (REFERRING TO JESUS CHRIST)**

(2) AND AFTER A FEW MINUTES OF PREACHING, IF SHE DID NOT THINK THERE WAS ENOUGH OF CHRIST IN THE SERMON, SHE WOULD SHOUT, **"GET HIM UP!"**

* AND **IF A PREACHER DID NOT "GET HIM UP" AT** SOME POINT, HE WAS IN FOR A LONG HARD DAY! (AND I THOUGHT OF SOMEONE IN THE CHURCH WHO WOULD BE BOLD ENOUGH TO DO THAT SITTING ON THE FRONT PEW TO ME.) BUT **YOU KNOW, THAT'S WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO IN PREACHING, "TO GET HIM UP!"**

** **IN FACT, THAT'S WHAT ALL CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE DOING EVERYDAY OF OUR LIVES AND THAT IS TO "GET HIM UP!"**

*** AND BELOVED, IF IT IS OUR AIM AND GOAL TO GET HIM UP, WE NEED TO GET OURSELVES DOWN.

**** AND JOHN THE BAPTIST UNDERSTOOD THAT **AS WE'LL SEE IN OUR TEXT TODAY.**

(3) FOR ALTHOUGH JESUS SAID IN MATTHEW 11:11, **"TRULY I SAY TO YOU, AMONG THOSE BORN OF WOMEN THEIR HAS NOT ARISEN ANYONE GREATER THAN JOHN THE BAPTIST!"**

* AND ALTHOUGH JOHN IN A SENSE WAS GREATER THAN THE O.T. PROPHETS BECAUSE HE ACTUALLY SAW WITH HIS EYES THE FULFILLMENT OF WHAT THEY PROPHESED.

** IN SPITE OF THAT, JOHN STILL HAD A PROPER PERSPECTIVE, WAS TRULY HUMBLE AND COMMUNICATED HE WAS NOT THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, THE MESSIAH, BUT ONE SENT TO BARE WITNESS OF THE LIGHT, TO PREPARE THE SUPER HIGHWAY THAT WOULD LEAD TO JESUS.

*** AND **JOHN WAS TRULY GREAT IN GOD'S** SIGHT BECAUSE HE WAS TRULY SMALL IN HIS OWN SIGHT.

**** JOHN SAW HIMSELF AS UNWORTHY, UNFIT **TO UNTIE THE THONG OF JESUS' SANDALS.**

(4) JOHN SAW HIS PURPOSE ON EARTH, FOR BEING ALIVE, TO GET HIM UP, TO LIFT JESUS UP.

* AND IF I COULD SUMMARIZE THE ATTITUDE AND HEART OF JOHN THE BAPTIST IN THE GOSPELS, IT WOULD BE WHAT HE SAID IN JOHN 3:30, IT WAS HIS PURPOSE STATEMENT, HIS LIFE VERSE, FOR HE SAID: (QUOTE IT).

**** JOHN'S GOAL IN LIFE WAS TO MAGNIFY, TO ENLARGE, TO PROMOTE AND LIFT UP JESUS CHRIST IN EVERY ASPECT OF HIS LIFE, "TO GET HIM UP!"**

*** AND AS THE PSALMIST SAID IN PSALM 34:3 (QUOTE IT). THAT SHOULD BE OUR GOAL AND MAY WE GROW TO A PLACE THAT THAT WILL BE OUR PASSION.

**** AND THE PSALMIST COMMUNICATES THAT IN PSALM 40:16 WHERE HE SAID: **"LET ALL WHO SEEK YOU REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN YOU: LET THOSE WHO LOVE YOUR SALVATION SAY CONTINUALLY, "THE LORD BE MAGNIFIED!"**

(5) AND BROTHERS AND SISTERS, THAT NEEDS TO BE THE FIRE AND PASSION OF THE **DIRECTION OF OUR LIVES, "TO MAKE MORE OF JESUS AND LESS OF OURSELVES."**

* AND THAT WAS **JOHN'S PASSION AND DIRECTION. AS WE WILL SEE IN OUR PASSAGE OF STUDY TODAY, WHICH I'VE TITLED; "GET HIM UP!"**

** AND UNDER THAT THEME I HAVE 3 POINTS TO DIRECT US. NO. 1 THE PROMISE, AS JOHN TALKS ABOUT THAT HE IS NOT THE PROMISED ONE, THE MESSIAH, VV. 15&16; NO. 2 THE PICTURE OF JUDGMENT, V. 17; AND NO. 3 THE PREACHING OF JOHN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES, VV. 18-20.

*** AND WITH THOSE 3 POINTS AS OUR GUIDE,
LOOK AT V. 15 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL START TO
SEE OUR FIRST POINT TODAY, THE PROMISE.

I. THE PROMISE, (READ V. 15)

A. NOW ACCORDING TO DR. LUKE, THE GOOD NEWS AND GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST BEGINS WITH THE MINISTRY OF JOHN THE BAPTIZER.

* AND IF THIS SEEMS SURPRISING TO YOU, IT HELPS TO KNOW THAT IN THOSE DAYS JOHN WAS A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FIGURE IN PALESTINE.

** FOR PEOPLE ALL OVER ISRAEL WERE TALKING **ABOUT JOHN'S UNUSUAL LIFESTYLE FOR THE** GUY WAS DIFFERENT. HIS CLOTHING WAS A **GARMENT OF CAMEL'S HAIR AND A LEATHER** BELT AROUND HIS WAIST AND HIS FOOD WAS LOCUSTS AND WILD HONEY, SO JOHN WAS NOT INTO FASHION AND BURGERS AND FRIES.

*** BEYOND THAT, JOHN HAD A CONFRONTATIONAL MESSAGE AND BAPTIZED PEOPLE AS AN EVIDENCE OF REPENTANCE.

**** SO JOHN WAS THE TALK OF THE AREA, THE QUOTE TALK OF THE TOWN.

1. AND JOHN WAS SO FAMOUS THAT SOME PEOPLE WONDERED WHETHER HE MIGHT EVEN BE THE MESSIAH. FOR MANY WERE WAITING FOR THE SAVIOR WHOM GOD HAD PROMISED TO SEND. WHO WOULD BE THE CHRIST?

* WELL, WHEN JOHN ARRIVED ON THE SCENE, HE WAS THE BEST CANDIDATE ANYONE HAD EVER SEEN. SPECULATION WAS RAMPANT. COULD IT BE, WAS IT POSSIBLE? HAD GOD FINALLY COME TO REDEEM HIS PEOPLE? HAS THE PROMISED ONE COME?

** AND THOUGH THE SPECULATION AS TO WHETHER JOHN WAS THE PROMISED ONE WAS UNDERSTANDABLE, IT WAS MISGUIDED.

*** FOR IF THE JEWS HAD STUDIED THE **SCRIPTURE'S MORE CAREFULLY, THEY WOULD** HAVE REALIZED THAT SOMEONE HAD TO COME FIRST, THE ONE WHOM WOULD PREPARE THE **WAY OF CHRIST, THE MESSIAH'S MESSENGER** WHICH WAS JOHN.

**** **AND WE WILL SEE JOHN'S HEART IN** RESPONSE TO ALL THIS EXCITEMENT AND EXPECTATION.

2. AND IT WAS TO GET JESUS UP AND TO GET HIMSELF DOWN, LOOK AT V. 16 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 16. NOW JOHN MAKES IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT HE IS NOT THE PROMISED MESSIAH.

* JOHN IS NOT A GLORY HOUND, HE UNDERSTANDS **IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT HIM, HE** GETS IT THAT HE IS NOT THE PICTURE, BUT THE **FRAME, HIS MISSION WAS TO "GET HIM UP!" TO** LIFT UP JESUS.

** FOR JOHN SAYS, I BAPTIZE WITH WATER, A PREPARATION BAPTISM OF REPENTANCE TO DIRECT PEOPLE TO THE PROMISED ONE THE MESSIAH.

*** JOHN IS SAYING MY BAPTISM IS A PREPARATION WORK, IT POINTS TO JESUS, FOR THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERED TO JOHN WAS POINTING PEOPLE TO CHRIST.

**** FOR JOHN GOES ON TO SAY: BUT ONE WHO IS COMING (JESUS) IS MIGHTIER THAN I, **GREATER THAN I, MORE POWERFUL THAN I, I'M** SMALL POTATOES TO THE ONE WHO IS COMING.

1. AND SO SUPERIOR IS JESUS THAT JOHN GOES ON TO SAY, THAT HE SAW HIMSELF UNFIT, UNQUALIFIED, UNWORTHY, INSUFFICIENT TO UNTIE THE THONG OF HIS SANDALS!

* NOW LET ME ATTEMPT TO UNPACK THIS STATEMENT. IN ISRAEL IN THAT DAY, TEACHERS, RABBIS WERE HELD IN SUCH GREAT RESPECT BY THEIR DISCIPLES, THEIR FOLLOWERS, THAT THEY VOLUNTARILY ACTED **AS THEIR TEACHER'S SLAVES.**

**** AND HENCE A GREAT TEACHER DIDN'T HAVE** TO LIFT A FINGER AS HIS STUDENTS IN THEIR DEVOTION WOULD PERFORM MENIAL ACTS OF SERVICE FOR HIM.

*** HOWEVER THERE WAS A MENIAL TASK OF SERVICE THAT STUDENTS WOULD NOT DO FOR THEIR TEACHERS, AND THAT WAS, TO UNTIE THE THONG OF HIS SANDALS.

**** FOR ACCORDING TO ONE ANCIENT RABBI, **"EVERY SERVICE WHICH A SLAVE PERFORMS FOR HIS MASTER SHALL A DISCIPLE DO FOR HIS TEACHER EXCEPT THE LOOSING OF A SANDAL-THONG."**

2. NOW THE LOOSING OF A SANDAL THONG WOULD BE GOING TOO FAR. UNLACING **SOMEONE'S SANDALS WAS SO DEGRADING THAT** A STUDENT COULD NOT BE COMPELLED TO DO IT.

* THAT WAS SIMPLY TOO MUCH TO ASK ANY JEW TO DO FOR ANOTHER JEW, IT WAS TOO MENIAL, TOO HUMBLING, TOO DEGRADING THAT A STUDENT WOULD NOT BE COMPELLED TO DO THAT FOR HIS TEACHER.

** BUT GET THIS! JOHN TAKES IT TO THE NEXT STEP, THE NEXT LEVEL DOWN , FOR JOHN SAYS HE WASN'T EVEN WORTHY TO DO THAT!

*** JOHN SAW HIMSELF AS UNWORTHY, UNFIT TO UNLACE THE SANDALS OF THE IMMENSELY AND IMMEASURABLY WORTHY CHRIST.

*** AND BY COMPARISON, JOHN SAW HIMSELF AS NOT JUST THE LOWEST OF THE LOW, HE WAS EVEN LOWER.

3. I MEAN THE PEOPLE WONDERED WHETHER JOHN MIGHT BE THE CHRIST, BUT JOHN TOLD **THEM THAT HE DIDN'T EVEN DESERVE TO BE HIS SLAVE. I GUESS JOHN DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH SELF ESTEEM.**

* YET, THIS IS WHY JOHN WAS USED BY THE LORD IN A GREAT WAY. JOHN SAW THAT HE WAS AN UNWORTHY SLAVE TO JESUS. JOHN SAW THAT HIS JOB WAS TO GET HIM UP, NOT SELF.

** AND BELOVED PLEASE TRY TO GET YOUR ARMS AROUND THIS. JESUS CHRIST IS SO WORTHY OF HONOR AND WORSHIP THAT EVEN THE GREATEST MAN ON EARTH IS UNWORTHY TO SERVE AS HIS SLAVE.

*** AND IN APPLICATION, HOW AMAZING IT IS THAT OUR GOD HAS CALLED US TO BE THE SLAVES OF CHRIST.

**** AND WE ARE NOT WORTHY FOR HIS **SERVICE, EXCEPT BY GOD'S GRACE.**

4. THEREFORE, EVERYTHING WE DO IN THE NAME OF CHRIST, ALL OUR WORSHIP, ALL OUR WITNESS, ALL OUR TEACHING, ALL OUR GIVING, AND ALL OF OUR SERVICE IN GENERAL, SHOULD BE DONE IN HUMBLE GRATITUDE TO GET HIM UP!

* I MEAN THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIFT HIM UP AND TO DO ANYTHING AT ALL FOR JESUS IS A HIGH PRIVILEGE AND HONOR THAT WE ARE GIVEN ONLY BY THE GRACE OF GOD.

** THUS ANY KIND OF SERVICE DONE FOR OUR MASTER IS A PRIVILEGE, AN HONOR, AND SADLY **SOMETIMES I DON'T LOOK AT IT THAT WAY.** FOR SOMETIMES IT IS INCONVENIENT, UNCOMFORTABLE, DIFFICULT AND HARD, BUT WHEN I COME BACK TO THE IDEA OF HIS WORTHINESS AND GRACE IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO GET HIM UP!

*** SO BOTTOM LINE, JOHN IDENTIFIED CHRIST AS A WORTHIER PERSON. AND THEN HE GOES ON TO EXPLAIN AT THE END OF V. 16 THAT JESUS WOULD DO A MIGHTIER WORK THROUGH A HOLIER BAPTISM.

**** FOR JOHN BAPTIZED WITH WATER, TO GET JESUS UP, BUT JESUS WOULD BAPTIZE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE.

5. AND THAT STATEMENT AND TRUTH **DEMONSTRATES CHRIST'S SUPERIORITY TO** JOHN, FOR THOSE TWO SUPERNATURAL ACTS CAN ONLY BE PERFORMED BY GOD.

* FOR IT IS GOD ALONE WHO DISPENSES THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THOSE WHO REPENT AND THE FIRE OF JUDGMENT TO THOSE WHO DO NOT.

** AND THINK ABOUT, WHEN WE REPENT AND RECEIVE JESUS AS SAVIOR AND LORD, WE ARE PLACED INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST, IMMERSSED INTO CHRIST, BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST, AND THE SPIRIT IS PLACED INTO US, QUOTE I CORINTHIANS 12:13 AND EXPLAIN.

*** WELL, CHRIST DOES THAT WORK AS HE SAVES US, WHEN WE REPENT AND RECEIVE HIM, WE ARE PLACED INTO SOMEONE AND SOMEONE IS PLACED INTO US.

*** **HOWEVER, IF YOU DON'T REPENT AND TURN TO JESUS FOR YOUR FORGIVENESS OF SINS, JESUS WILL BE YOUR JUDGE AND IMMERSE YOU IN THE FIRE OF HELL ONE DAY. IT'S REPENT OR PERISH.**

**** SO JOHN IS LIFTING JESUS UP HERE AS SAVIOR OR JUDGE. HE IS GETTING HIM UP FOR **CHRIST'S BAPTISM IS A HOLIER GREATER BAPTISM.**

6. A BAPTISM UNTO SALVATION, BAPTISM BY THE SPIRIT, OR A BAPTISM OF FIRE - JUDGMENT.

* AND THERE ARE SEVERAL INTERPRETATIONS OF WHAT FIRE IS, BUT THE CONTEXT INTERPRETS IT AS JUDGMENT, FOR LOOK AT V. **17 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR 2'D POINT** TODAY, THE PICTURE JOHN PAINTS IN GETTING JESUS UP.

II. THE PICTURE, (READ V. 17)

A. NOW V. 17 PICTURES THE SEPARATION INVOLVED IN JUDGMENT BY USING A FAMILIAR AGRICULTURAL ILLUSTRATION OF THAT DAY CALLED THRESHING.

* AND THRESHING WAS THE PROCESS OF SEPARATING THE GRAINS OF WHEAT FROM THE USELESS OUTER SHELL CALLED CHAFF.

** AND THIS WAS NORMALLY DONE ON A THRESHING FLOOR THAT WAS OUTSIDE WHERE THE WIND COULD BLOW AWAY THE LIGHTER CHAFF WHEN THE FARMER TOSSED THE BEATEN WHEAT BY AN OX, INTO THE AIR.

*** AND THE FARMER WOULD USE A WOODEN WINNOWING FORK, LIKE A PITCH FORK TODAY, AND USE IT TO TOSS THE BEATEN WHEAT BY AN OX INTO THE AIR IN ORDER TO SEPARATE WHEAT FROM THE CHAFF.

**** AND THE GRAIN IS THE PART OF THE PLANT THAT IS USEFUL, WHILE THE CHAFF IS THE WORTHLESS OUTER SHELL. AND CHAFF IS USELESS SO IT IS GATHERED AND BURNED, WHEREAS WHEAT IS GATHERED FOR IT IS GRAIN THAT IS VERY USEFUL.

1. NOW WITH THAT SAID, **JOHN'S ILLUSTRATION** PICTURES JESUS CHRIST AS JUDGE WITH HIS WINNOWING FORK IN HIS HAND, READY TO CLEAR HIS THRESHING FLOOR THAT NO TRACES OF CHAFF ARE LEFT.

* AND HIS JUDGMENT WILL BE SO COMPLETE THAT NO ONE WILL BE EXEMPT FROM IT.

** AND AFTER THE SEPARATION IS ACCOMPLISHED, JESUS WILL GATHER THE WHEAT, IN THIS PICTURE, THE REPENTANT, BAPTIZED WITH THE SPIRIT INTO HIS BARN WHICH IN THIS ILLUSTRATION IS HEAVEN.

*** HOWEVER JESUS WILL BURN UP THE CHAFF, THE UNREPENTANT IN HIS BAPTISM OF FIRE WITH THE UNQUENCHABLE FIRE OF ETERNAL HELL.

**** SO JOHN USES THIS FARMING ILLUSTRATION TO LIFT JESUS UP, TO GET HIM UP AS SAVIOR AND JUDGE, HE WILL BAPTIZE WITH THE SPIRIT, THE REPENTANT, SAVED PEOPLE - THE WHEAT, AND HE WILL BAPTIZE WITH FIRE, THE UNREPENTANT, UNSAVED PEOPLE WITH THE FIRE OF ETERNAL HELL. SO **JOHN'S MESSAGE OF JESUS IS TURN TO JESUS - REPENT OR BURN - BE JUDGED IF YOU REJECT HIM.**

2. **AND THAT'S THE MESSAGE JOHN WILL PREACH**, WHICH LEADS US TO OUR THIRD POINT TODAY, THE PREACHING OF JOHN. LOOK AT V. 18 PLEASE.

III. THE PREACHING, (READ V. 18)

A. NOW THE WORD THAT LUKE USED TO TALK **ABOUT JOHN'S PREACHING IS THE WORD GOSPEL** IN THE NAS, GOOD NEWS IN THE NIV AND ESV. AND THE WORD PREACHING IN THE NKJV AND KJV, THE GREEK WORD, YOU-ANG-GHEL-ID-ZO FROM WHICH WE GET THE WORD EVANGELISM.

* JOHN PREACHED THE GOOD NEWS TO PEOPLE CALLING THEM TO REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED AS A FRUIT OF REPENTING IN PREPARATION FOR **CHRIST'S COMING**.

** JOHN WAS LIFTING UP CHRIST, GETTING HIM UP, IN PREPARATION FOR HIS COMING.

*** IT WAS REPENT OR PERISH. AND SOME MAY WONDER AT THIS POINT, HOW CAN JUDGMENT BY FIRE BE GOOD NEWS?

**** WELL, IT IS GOOD NEWS BECAUSE WHEN WE **KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD'S WRATH**, BY HIS GRACE WE WILL START LOOKING FOR A WAY TO ESCAPE.

1. AND THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. QUOTE JOHN 14:6, JOHN 10:9 AND ACTS 4:12.

* SO WHAT DOES JOHN DO IN ESSENCE? HE LIFTS UP JESUS AS THE ONLY WAY. HE GETS HIM UP. FOR THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS BECOMES GOOD NEWS WHEN YOU UNDERSTAND THE BAD NEWS OF SIN.

** AND AS THE LORD TURNS ON THE LIGHT AND WE SEE JESUS FOR WHO HE IS AND SEE THE HEINOUSNESS OF OUR SIN, GOD THROUGH SOVEREIGN GRACE IN OPENING OUR EYES GRANTS REPENTANCE, TURNING FROM SIN TO THE SAVIOR.

*** SO JOHN PREACHED THE GOSPEL, THE GOOD NEWS TO THE PEOPLE AND IT SAYS HE DID THAT WITH MANY EXHORTATIONS ACCORDING TO V. 18.

**** AND MOST LIKELY HIS EXHORTATIONS EXPOSED THE **WICKEDNESS OF PEOPLE'S** HEARTS AND CONDEMNED THEIR RELIANCE ON RITUAL AND THEIR ABRAHAMIC HERITAGE FOR SALVATION AND WARNED THEM THAT THEY **WOULD FACE THE FIRE OF GOD'S JUDGMENT IF** THEY DID NOT TRULY REPENT.

2. AND SOMETIMES THERE IS A GREAT REACTION TO BOLD BIBLICAL PREACHING, FOR **JOHN'S PREACHING WAS NOT ONLY DIRECTED** TO LARGE AUDIENCES, BUT ALSO TO SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS. LOOK AT V. 19 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 19. NOW JOHN IN HIS PREACHING EVEN REPRIMANDED HEROD ANTIPAS THE TETRARCH OF GALILEE AND PEREA.

* AND THE VERB REPRIMANDED LIT. MEANS TO REBUKE, TO REPROVE, TO EXPOSE, AND THE TENSE OF THIS VERB COMMUNICATES CONTINUOUS ACTION, MEANING JOHN CONTINUALLY CHALLENGED THE MORAL CHARACTER OF THIS RULER BECAUSE OF ALL THE WICKED THINGS HE HAD DONE ACCORDING TO V. 19.

**** AND OF ALL HEROD'S SINS, ONE GLARING ONE** STOOD OUT PUBLICLY; HIS IMMORAL, ILLICIT **MARRIAGE TO HERODIAS, HIS BROTHER PHILIP'S WIFE WHO WAS BY THE WAY HEROD ANTIPAS' NIECE.** SO HE MARRIED HIS BROTHERS WIFE WHILE HE WAS STILL ALIVE, WHO WAS HIS NIECE.

*** AND TO MAKE A LONG STORY SHORT, HERODIAS DIVORCED PHILIP TO MARRY ANTIPAS, AND ANTIPAS DIVORCED HIS WIFE TO MARRY HERODIAS AND IT WAS TO QUOTE LEGALLY SANCTION THEIR IMMORALITY, WHICH WAS NOT ONLY IMMORALITY BUT ALSO INCESTUOUS.

**** AND JOHN PRIVATELY OR PUBLICALLY CALLED HEROD TO REPENT OF THIS SIN AND ALL THE OTHER WICKED THINGS HE DID.

1. AND OBVIOUSLY HEROD AND HERODIAS DID NOT LIKE THAT, FOR LOOK AT V. 20 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 20. **NOW JOHN'S UNCOMPROMISING REBUKE OF HEROD'S AND HERODIAS' ILLICIT MARRIAGE WAS EXPLOSIVE POLITICALLY.**

* IT WENT OVER LIKE A LEAD BALLOON. SO WHAT DOES HEROD DO? HE HAS TO SILENCE JOHN. AND IN DOING THAT HEROD ADDED ACCORDING TO V. 20 TO HIS ALREADY LENGTHY LIST OF INIQUITIES THE MOST PUBLIC ONE OF THEM ALL. HE LOCKED JOHN UP IN PRISON.

**AND PREACHING REPENTANCE AND PREACHING THE GOOD NEWS LED HEROD TO LOCK JOHN UP.

*** SOMETIMES IT IS COSTLY TO TELL THE TRUTH AND PREACH THE TRUTH.

**** AND FOR JOHN IT WOULD COST HIM HIS FREEDOM AND EVENTUALLY ACCORDING TO THE GOSPELS OF MATTHEW AND MARK, IT WOULD COST JOHN HIS LIFE, AS LATER ON JOHN WOULD HAVE HIS HEAD CUT OFF BY THE ORDER OF HEROD.

1. AND IT MAY COME TO THAT IN OUR LAND OF THE FREE AND HOME OF THE BRAVE. FOR AS OUR NATION AND LEADERS DEPART FARTHER FROM THE TRUTH AND PLURALISM TAKES EVEN DEEPER ROOT, PERSECUTION WILL FOLLOW.

*** BUT I'M SURE IF WE COULD RESURRECT JOHN**
TODAY, HE WOULD SAY HE WOULD DO IT ALL
OVER AGAIN AND THAT IT WAS WORTH IT TO
LIFT UP JESUS AS HE SEES HIM FACE TO FACE
TODAY, HIS JOB WAS TO GET HIM UP! PEOPLE
EITHER GET CHRIST UP OR PUT HIM DOWN.

IN WRAP UP AND IN APPLICATION: (1)
BELIEVER, WHAT IS OUR JOB AND PRIVILEGE
TODAY?

* TO GET HIM UP. AND WE NEED TO GET HIM UP
NOW FOR WE WILL BE GETTING HIM UP FOR ALL
ETERNITY!

** AND YOU KNOW IN ESSENCE OUR CHIEF
PURPOSE IN LIFE IS TO GET HIM UP, TO LIFT
JESUS HIGH, TO EXALT HIM, TO MAKE HIM BIG
AND OURSELVES SMALL, TO GLORIFY HIM.

*** AND JESUS SAID IN JOHN 12:32 (QUOTE IT).

**** AND WE LIFT UP HIS CRUCIFIXION, WE LIFT UP HIS RESURRECTION, WE LIFT UP HIS SPOTLESS LIFE, WE LIFT UP HIS PURPOSE TO SEEK AND SAVE THE LOST AND TO EQUIP THOSE WHOM GOD HAS PUT IN OUR LIVES.

(2) SO LET'S GET HIM UP IN OUR HOMES. **LET'S** GET HIM UP AT WORK. **LET'S** GET HIM UP IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS. **LET'S GET HIM UP** IN OUR FAMILIES **AND LET'S** GET HIM UP IN OUR CHURCH.

* AND THAT CAN BE A VERY SIMPLE PURPOSE STATEMENT FOR OUR LIVES AS CHRISTIANS. WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE? TO GET HIM UP.

** AND IF WE CAN LOOK AT LIFE THAT WAY, HE CAN CHANGE OUR PURPOSE AND BRING GREAT **JOY TO OUR LIVES. BELOVED, LET'S GET HIM UP!!**

*** LASTLY, IF YOU HAVE NOT TURNED TO THE
CRUCIFIED, RISEN SAVIOR WHO CAME TO SAVE
SINNERS FROM THEIR SIN, REPENT TODAY.
TURN TO JESUS CHRIST AS THE ONLY ONE WHO
CAN SAVE YOU FROM THE FIRE **OF GOD'S**
WRATH. AND THEN YOUR DESIRE WILL BE TO
GET HIM UP! (LET'S PRAY)