

February 16, 2020

The New Testament!
Matthew 14:1-12
"John the Baptist is Martyred, I!"

Matthew 14:1-12 (ESV) At that time Herod the tetrarch heard about the fame of Jesus, **2** and he said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist. He has been raised from the dead; that is why these miraculous powers are at work in him." **3** For Herod had seized John and bound him and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, **4** because John had been saying to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her." **5** And though he wanted to put him to death, he feared the people, because they held him to be a prophet. **6** But when Herod's birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced before the company and pleased Herod, **7** so that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask. **8** Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me the head of John the Baptist here on a platter." **9** And the king was sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he commanded it to be given. **10** He sent and had John beheaded in the prison, **11** and his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother. **12** And his disciples came and took the body and buried it, and they went and told Jesus.

Introduction

In chapter 14 we come to beginning of a new section, "the withdrawal of the King, chps 14-17". The death of John had happened earlier. What happens here is that Herod Antipas, who ordered the jailing and death of Jesus hears about Jesus and thinks that John had risen from the dead.

But there is more to this account than we first see!
We have just worked through a section, 11-13 in
which the opposition to Jesus has intensified
At the end of 13 Jesus was rejected in His hometown
Here we see that the herald of Jesus has been
executed

What does this say about the fate of Jesus?
He is turning away from public teaching and doing
more teaching of His disciples in private
This is an important transition
We see in this verse why the account of John the
Baptist is included

**himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed
him on foot from the towns.**

After the death of John, the handwriting was on the
wall and Jesus responded by withdrawing from the
crowds and He began to teach privately those He
was to leave behind

**1 At that time Herod the tetrarch heard about the
fame of Jesus, 2 and he said to his servants, "This is
John the Baptist. He has been raised from the dead;
that is why these miraculous powers are at work in
him."**

The fame of Jesus finally reached this prince
absorbed in self and lust
CHS says, *"he had enough conscience to scare him,
but not enough to change him"*

**3 For Herod had seized John and bound him and put
him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother
Philip's wife, 4 because John had been saying to him,
"It is not lawful for you to have her."**

It was not lawful to take his brother's wife while his brother was living and while his wife was living

5 And though he wanted to put him to death, he feared the people, because they held him to be a prophet.

Herod wanted to kill John but John's popularity with the common people caused him restraint

Matthew 11:9 (ESV) 9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

Matthew 21:26 (ESV) But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet."

6 But when Herod's birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced before the company and pleased Herod,

The birthday party was not the problem

7 so that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask.

A really foolish oath

CHS says, "never give a signature when someone else can fill in the blank?"

Don't sign a check and let someone else fill in the blank!

8 Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me the head of John the Baptist here on a platter."

It was all a plan between the evil mother and the willing daughter

It was a cold-blooded and calculated murder

9 And the king was sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he commanded it to be given.

He had felt a bit of conscience

Proverbs 20:25 (NLT) It is dangerous to make a rash promise to God before counting the cost.

10 He sent and had John beheaded in the prison,

By a word a prophet is murdered

11 and his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother.

Can you imagine a young lady that could have accepted such

12 And his disciples came and took the body and buried it, and they went and told Jesus.

The Baptist's followers did not desert him

CHS, "*The real and eternal man no one can bury*"

They came to Jesus and told Him what had happened

What a great lesson to end with!

When in trouble or scared we need to tell Jesus

We need to tell Him all about it

It is a great relief from our burden to tell Jesus

He cares for His

In a couple of weeks we will look at several things that we might learn from these 12 verses

Assignment

Today individually or as a family

Talk to God in the name of Jesus about some concerns that you have

Really share your heart and concerns with the Lord