

A Disturbing Drama

Matthew 14:1-13

Review/Context

A Conscience-Burdened Ruler (1-2)

At that time *Herod the tetrarch* heard about the fame of Jesus, 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.”



A Prison-Bound Prophet (3-5)

For Herod had seized John and bound him and put him in prison for the sake of *Herodias*, his *brother Philip's* wife, because John had been saying to him, “It is not lawful for you to have her.” And though he wanted to put him to death, he *feared the people*, because they held him to be a prophet.

A Bitter-Born Scheme (6-8)

But when Herod's birthday came,
the *daughter* of Herodias danced
before the company
and pleased Herod,
so that he *promised* with an *oath* to give her
whatever she might ask.
Prompted by her mother, she said,
"Give me *the head* of John the Baptist
here
on a *platter*."

A Proverb-Failed King (9-11)

And the king was *sorry*,
but because of his *oaths*
and his *guests*
he commanded it to be given.
He sent and had John beheaded in the prison,
and his head was brought on a platter
and given to the *girl*
and she brought it to her *mother*.

A Grief-Stricken Savior (12-13)

And his disciples came and took the body
and buried it,
and they went and told Jesus.
Now when Jesus heard *this*,
he *withdrew* from there in a boat
to a desolate place *by himself*.

Application/Participation

The humanity and sorrow of Jesus Christ
The stark reality of godliness unrewarded and even
punished in this life
We too need eternal hope robust enough to bear
this kind of sorrow
Both for ourselves as well as those we love
The only reality substantial enough to support this
hope is the return of Jesus and the Resurrection
