

Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, March 5, 2023

Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew

Message 82. The Death of John the Baptist – Matthew 14:1-12

Pastor Phillip M Way

Intro: Jesus begins to withdraw from public ministry and devotes more time to prayer and to teaching His disciples.

- I. Herod, Jesus, and John – vs. 1-2
 - A. Herod Antipas the Tetrarch – ruler of fourth
 1. Son of Herod the Great
 2. Governed Galilee
 3. Half brothers Philip and Aristobulus also ruled after their father's death
 4. Philip married Aristobulus' daughter, Herodias (Agrippa's sister, Herod's niece)
 5. Herod's Wives
 - a. Daughter of Aretas, an Arabian king
 - b. Divorced her causing war with Aretas – saved by the Romans
 - c. Seduced and married Herodias, convincing her to divorce Philip – Lev. 18:16
 6. Herod's beliefs
 - a. Sadducee – no miracles, no resurrection
 - b. Superstitious
 - c. Sensual
 - B. Jesus of Nazareth – Luke 23:8-12
 - C. John the Baptist
 1. The Messiah's Forerunner – Matt. 3:1-12
 2. A Righteous Man – Matt. 11:11; Mark 6:20
 3. A Prophet preaching with power
 4. Hated by Herod and Herodias – Mark 6:19-20
- II. A Guilty Conscience – vs. 2-4
 - A. John Raised from the Dead?
 - B. Convicted and Angry – Quote #1 & 2
- III. Fear of Men – vs. 5-9
 - A. The Crowd Counted John a Prophet
 - B. Herod Feared the Crowd
 - C. Like Mother, Like Daughter
 1. A birthday party – drinking and dancing
 2. Seduction by his niece/step-daughter
 3. A rash oath
 4. Sorrow without repentance
- IV. Death and Burial – vs. 10-12
 - A. From Prison to Paradise
 - B. John's Head Delivered to Herodias
 - C. John's Body Delivered to His Disciples – they “buried it,” not him! – 1 Cor. 15:42-45, 50-58
- V. A Lonely Place – vs. 13a

Quotes

1. “He had enough conscience to scare him, though not enough to change him.” – CH Spurgeon
2. “Herod could bear to do the deed, but he could not bear to be told he had committed an unlawful act.” – CH Spurgeon

Cross References

Leviticus 18:16

16 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it is your brother's nakedness.

Luke 23:8-12

8 Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him. 9 Then he questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing. 10 And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him. 11 Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked Him, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate. 12 That very day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for previously they had been at enmity with each other.

Matthew 3:1-12

3 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.'" 4 Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him 6 and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, 9 and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. 10 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Matthew 11:11

11 "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Mark 6:19-20

19 Therefore Herodias held it against him and wanted to kill him, but she could not; 20 for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just and holy man, and he protected him. And when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.

1 Corinthians 15:42-45

42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. 43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. 45 And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” 55 “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” 56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

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