

## Matthew 14:1-2 Hearing the News About Jesus Christ

Introduction: In our text today we observe Herod and his court as they hear the news about Jesus. This is Herod the tetrarch, ruler of Galilee.

### I. The occasion for Herod Antipas hearing about Jesus

- A. Herod probably had heard of Jesus before, but had paid little attention to what he heard.
  - 1. Herod was tetrarch in Galilee and his palace was in the city of Tiberias just south of Capernaum.
  - 2. He had been too busy seeking pleasure to pay much attention.
- B. But finally the fame of Jesus became the topic of conversation in his court.
  - 1. The miracles of Jesus sparked the fame of Jesus and caught his attention.
  - 2. These miracles had to be accounted for somehow.
- C. The disciples said that Jesus is the Messiah but Herod and his men rejected that idea.
- D. According to Mark and Luke several suggestions were made to Herod.
  - 1. Some said He was Elijah come back to life.
  - 2. Others doubted that, but agreed that He must be one of the Old Testament prophets come back to life.
- E. Herod thought that Jesus was John the Baptist come back to life, because his conscience bothered him for beheading John.
- F. How tragic that Herod and his court rejected the truth about Jesus for even these wicked men could have been saved.

### II. The spreading of the news about Jesus today.

- A. Just as Herod and his men heard of Jesus then, even so many hear today.
  - 1. At Christmas the news is spread in a special way.  
(Nobody in our land would fail to hear.)
  - 2. At Easter the news would spread in a special way.
  - 3. Every Sunday true New Testament churches spread the news.  
(As the crucified, risen Saviour.)
- B. All who hear have the opportunity of staying out of the fires of hell and going to heaven.
- C. But as Herod and his men rejected the truth about Jesus even so do many today.
  - 1. Some seek to account for the miracles of Jesus by denying that they ever happened.  
(Even Herod knew better than that.)
  - 2. Some say that a few unusual incidents really happened but got blown all out of proportion. (Herod knew better than that, too. The people Jesus healed were still around.)
- D. What a tragedy that men will so lightly turn aside the gospel without even an investigation to see if it is so.
  - 1. Men pass up the opportunity to be saved upon such flimsy reasons.
  - 2. If one really wants to know whether or not the bible is true and the gospel is true, let him ask God and God will help him to know the truth.
- E. Thank God that not all reject the gospel message.
  - 1. Many men, women, boys and girls trust in Jesus to save and everyone who trusts He saves.
  - 2. Thank God that I trusted Jesus and He saved me. (About forty years ago and my salvation is just as precious today.)
  - 3. Many in this service have also trusted in Him.

Conclusion: I am confident that I am talking to somebody today who needs to trust in Jesus.

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