

Matthew 14:3-11 A Fabulous Offer

Text: Verse 7

Introduction: In our text last week, Herod the tetrarch heard of the fame of Jesus and thought that He was John the Baptist come back to life again. In our text today, Matthew goes back in time to explain why Herod beheaded John.

I. The events that led to John's arrest and imprisonment.

- A. Herod was married to an Arabian princess and Herod's half-brother Philip was married to Herodias.
- B. Herod made a visit to the home of Philip where he and Herodias had a whirlwind adulterous affair.
- C. The result was that both left their companions and began to live together as husband and wife.
- D. John the Baptist soon heard the news and publicly denounced them for disregarding the will of God.
- E. Upon the strong urging (nagging) of Herodias, Herod had John arrested and imprisoned, verses 3-4.
- F. Also because of her insistence he would have put John to death, but he feared to do so because of John's popularity with the masses of people, verse 5.

II. The events that led to John being beheaded.

- A. Herodias was a shrewd and wicked woman who never gave up on the idea of putting John to death.
- B. The planning of the birthday party for Herod gave her the opportunity she had waited for.
- C. Salome, the daughter of Herodias, danced at the party to entertain Herod and his guests.
  1. She did so, no doubt, at the suggestion of her mother.
  2. For a person of royalty to engage in such a dance was scandalous, but Herodias cared not for her daughter's reputation. (She cared only to vent her hatred on John, the Baptist.)
- D. Herod and his guests were pleased, Herod especially, verse 6.
  1. The dance of Salome was a lewd sensuous dance which excited his passion for lust.
  2. Herodias knew his weakness and plotted her strategy well.
- E. Herod made Salome a fabulous offer.
  1. Matthew says he offered her "whatsoever she would ask," verse 7.
  2. Mark says he qualified the offer up to half the kingdom.
  3. Apparently Herod was drunk.
  4. But it was a grand opportunity for Salome to gain wealth, position, and power.
- F. She passed up her opportunity in order to help her mother get vengeance on John, verse 8.
- G. Herod kept his promise and beheaded John, verses 9-11.

III. The more fabulous offer which God has made.

- A. Herod offered wealth and power which, at the most, could last only for a few years.
- B. God, thru the gospel, offers wealth that is everlasting.
  1. God offers a chance to stay out of hell and go to heaven.
  2. God offers a chance to be an heir of God and a joint heir of Jesus Christ, Romans 8:16-17.
  3. God offers a chance to rule and reign with Jesus in the millennium, Revelations 20:6.
  4. God offers a chance to share the riches of God's grace throughout the eternal ages, Ephesians 2:6-7.

Conclusion: Do not be so foolish as to pass up God's fabulous offer.

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