

## 122. King Herod Kills John the Baptist (Matthew 14:1-12)

Prayer: Dear Jesus, You tell us to follow You and believe what You teach and announce what You teach. Sometimes the world hates what we say and will try to stop us. Please strengthen our faith so we will only follow You and not be afraid of the world. Through this Bible study, help us to increase confidence and faith, so that no matter what happens, we will always announce Your truth and not be afraid. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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Matthew 14:1-2. King Herod heard about Jesus and the miracles Jesus did. Herod told his servants, "Jesus is really John the Baptist. John rose alive from the dead. That is why Jesus has power to do miracles."

- Who did Herod think Jesus really was?
- Did Herod believe Jesus could really do miracles?
- Herod said Jesus had power. Where did Herod think Jesus got His power?

Matthew 14:3-5. Earlier, King Herod arrested John the Baptist. Herod tied up John and put him in prison. Why? Herod had a brother, Philip. Philip's wife, Herodias, left him and married Herod. John told Herod that he should not marry Herodias. That is why Herod arrested John. Herod wanted to kill John, but he was afraid of all the people. The Jews thought John was a prophet.

- What wrong thing did Herod do, and John told him not to do?
- Was John afraid to correct the king? Should we also speak out and correct our leaders when they go against God?
- What did Herod want to do to John? Why didn't he?

Matthew 14:6-7. Herod had a birthday. For his birthday, Herodias' daughter danced for his party, and Herod enjoyed the dance. So Herod promised and swore to give her anything she wanted.

- How smart was Herod if he promised to give anything because he liked a dance?
- The Bible warns us not to speak before we think, and not to swear any promises. Why is that wise advice?

Matthew 14:8-11. Herodias told her daughter what to ask for. So the daughter said, "I want John the Baptist's head on a plate." The king was very sorry. But he had sworn to give her anything, and his guests saw him promise. So he ordered John's head cut off in prison. A person brought John's head on a plate and gave it to the daughter. The daughter took it and gave it to her mother.

- What did Herodias' daughter ask for?
- Did Herod want to kill John? Why was he stuck? Why did he have to kill John?

Matthew 14:12. John's disciples came and took his body and they buried the body. Then they went and told Jesus what happened.

- John spoke the truth. John's disciples saw what happened to John because he spoke the truth. Did they become afraid and run away? What did they do?
- When we see Christians getting accused or put down for what they believe, what should we do?