

John The Immerser Before Herod

Sunday PM 06/03/18

Introduction:

Scriptures: *Matthew 14.1-12a; Mark 6.14-29; Luke 9.7-9.*

I) The Preaching of John.

A) Was preparing the people for the Messiah and the Kingdom.

1. John was dressed differently, spoke differently, and even ate differently. *Mark 1.6*
2. John got the attention of a lot of people. Which meant they had a lot of questions about him. *John 1.21,22.*
 - a. The questions showed they thought he was sent from God. Elijah, the Prophet are references to two Old Testament figures.
 - b. Elijah was one those who appeared on the Mount of Transfiguration, *Matthew 17.*
 - c. The Prophet has reference to *Deuteronomy 18.18.*

B) It was a straightforward message with a clear meaning.

1. We see this when John was before Herod.
2. He told Herod, his marriage with Herodias was "unlawful".

II) Herod the Tetrarch, *Matthew 14.1.*

A) The Herod family.

1. Herod the Great was the one who tried to kill the baby Jesus.
2. This Herod was Antipas 1, the son of Herod the Great.
3. Most of the time the Roman rulers allowed the Jews to do what they pleased as long as there was peace in the region.
 - a. The preaching of John might of gotten Herod's attention due to his popularity and his message about the Kingdom.
 - b. Also during some of this time Jesus was preaching and sending out the 12 Disciples, which also got Herod's attention, *Matthew 14.1*
4. Herod and some of the people thought Jesus might be John resurrected. Why?
 - a. Herod had John beheaded.
 - b. Jesus then withdrew across the Sea of Galilee where He fed the 5,000, *Mark 6.30-32*.
 - c. Now a year later we have people talking about Jesus being John resurrected. Why? Jesus was not the kind of Messiah they were looking for and part of His message was the same as John's "the Kingdom of heaven is at hand" *Matthew 4.17*.

B) John before Herod.

1. Herod had taken his brother, Philip's wife, Herodias.
2. Herodias was a half niece of Herod Antipas, this Herod.
3. This marriage was condemned for a number of reasons: The Law of Moses condemned marriage to a near relative, *Lev. 18.1-18*; prohibited a man from marrying his brother's wife when that brother was still living, *Lev. 18.16*.
3. Therefore Herod was in an uncomfortable situation. *Mark 6.20a*.
 - a. He put John in prison which would stop him from preaching to others.
 - b. John was also kept alive.
 - c. Herod actually liked listening to John, *Mark 6.20b*.

III) Herodias & Her Daughter.

A) We know she had no regard for the Law of God.

1. She was infuriated by John's message, *Mark 6.19*.
2. We know she was immoral, angry and not above using her daughter to get what she wanted.
3. At the time of a birthday banquet Herodias acted, *Mark 6.21*.
 - a. This would have been a drunken orgy.

- b. This woman had no problem using her daughter to entice Herod.
- 4. The same things goes on today. The NFL has a scandal due to "cheerleaders" being used to entice men, pressured to act as escorts on business trips, etc.

B) We know this daughter.

- 1. Was beautiful, aware of her good looks, and was willing to dance so as to entice Herod. *Mark 6.22.*
- 2. The result was what one might expect of an immoral, drunk king, *Mark 6.22; Matthew 14.7.*
- 3. She listened to her mother and asked for the head of John the Immerser, *Mark 6.23.*
 - a. Often such a promise of some great reward was made but it was often considered improper to actually expect them to fulfill the request.
 - b. We have both mother and daughter acting to have John killed.

IV) Herod's Response.

A) The king was "exceedingly sorry" *Mark 6.26.*

- 1. He did not repent for that would have been a hard thing to do.
- 2. He did not go back on his word for that would have taken courage.

3. Often we are faced with hard decisions when it comes to serving God. Decisions that calls for repentance, courage, and faith.

B) He had John beheaded, *Mark 6.27,28.*

1. One can only imagine what it must have been like to of been in the hall when the doors opened up and there comes in a platter with John's head on it.
2. He gave the head to the daughter of Herodias and she gave it to her mother.
3. Notice it did not change her marriage, or the Law of God.

Conclusion:

What would you of done if you were Herod, Herodias, the daughter, or John. What are you doing now when you hear the word of God? Being weak and continuing in sin, striving against the Law of God, or repenting and turning to God.