



# Malicious Murder and Compassionate Concern

**Kevin Cooper**

1.4.26

**Matt. 14:1-21**

# Outline

## Matthew 14:1-21

1-12 Malicious Murder

13-21 Compassionate Concern

## Matthew 14:1-2

At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the news about Jesus, and said to his servants, “This is John the Baptist; he has risen from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him.”

# Sons of King Herod

## Herod the Great – Ruler at Birth of Jesus

- Aristobulus Father of **Herodias** and **Agrippa I**, but never ruled
- **Archelaus** Tetrarch over Judea; Joseph avoided him (2:22)  
Deposed in AD 6; replaced by Roman governors
- **Philip I** Lived in Rome, married **Herodias**; daughter **Salome**
- **Antipas** Tetrarch over Galilee at time of Jesus' ministry  
“Herod the tetrarch” in today's passage
- **Philip II** Tetrarch of areas north of Galilee (Luke 3:1)

# Wicked Acts of the Herods

- **Herod the Great**      Bethlehem slaughter (Matthew 2)  
Also had three of his own sons executed.
- **Archaleus**      Killed 3000 Jews during one Passover  
“We do not want this man to reign over us.”
- **Antipas**      Adulterous relationship with brother’s wife **Herodias**  
Ordered execution of John the Baptist  
Presided over one unfair trial of Jesus (Luke 23)
- **Herodias**      Vengefully plotted the death of John the Baptist
- **Agrippa I**      Ordered execution of Jesus’ disciple James  
Arrested Peter in order to execute him (Acts 12)

# John the Baptist

- Preached repentance (3:2)
- Announced kingdom of heaven at hand (3:2)
- Made ready the way for Messiah (3:3)
- Baptized many, including Jesus (3:6, 16)
- Imprisoned by Herod (4:12)
- Questioned Jesus from prison (11:2-3)
- Jesus said of him, “No one greater” (11:11)

# Herod's Conscience

Why would Herod think Jesus was  
John risen from the dead?

# FLASHBACK

# Proverbs 28:17

A man who is laden  
with the **guilt** of human blood  
Will be a fugitive until death;  
let no one support him.

## Matthew 14:3-4

For when **Herod** had **John** arrested, he bound him and put him in prison because of **Herodias**, the wife of his brother **Philip**. For John had been saying to him, “It is not lawful for you to have her.”

## **Exodus 20:14**

You shall not commit adultery.

## **Exodus 20:17**

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.

# Matthew 14:5

Although Herod wanted to put him to death, he feared the crowd, because they regarded John as a prophet.

## Mark 6:19-20

Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death and could not *do so*; for Herod was afraid of John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. And when he heard him, he was very perplexed; but he used to enjoy listening to him.

# Exodus 20:13

You shall not murder.

## Matthew 11:9-11

But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and one who is more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU.' Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen *anyone* greater than John the Baptist!

## Matthew 14:6-7

But when Herod's birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced before *them* and pleased Herod, so *much* that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked.

## **Matthew 5:27-28**

You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY'; but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

## Matthew 14:8-11

Having been prompted by her mother, she said, “Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist.” Although he was grieved, the king commanded *it* to be given **because of his oaths**, and **because of his dinner guests**. He sent and had John beheaded in the prison. And his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother.

## Matthew 5:34-37

But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is THE CITY OF THE GREAT KING. Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; anything beyond these is of evil.

# Proverbs 29:25

The fear of man brings a snare,  
But he who trusts in the LORD will be exalted.

# Matthew 14:12

His disciples came and took away the body and buried it; and **they went and reported to Jesus.**

# Outline

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## Matthew 14:13-14

Now when Jesus heard *about John*, He withdrew from there in a boat to a secluded place by Himself; and when the people heard *of this*, they followed Him on foot from the cities. When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt **compassion** for them and healed their sick.

## Matthew 14:15-16

When it was evening, the disciples came to Him and said, “This place is desolate and the hour is already late; so send the crowds away, that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.”

But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go away; you give them *something* to eat!”

## John 6:8-9

One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these for so many people?"

# Matthew 14:17-18

They said to Him,  
“We have here only five loaves and two fish.”  
And He said,  
“Bring them here to Me.”

# Lessons for Jesus' Disciples

- They saw Jesus do miracles of healing
- He waited until the disciples saw a need, and listened to their proposed solution
- He challenged them with another option – but it seemed humanly impossible
- They offered to give Jesus what they had, and He accepted their offer.

## Matthew 14:19-20a

Ordering the people to sit down on the grass, He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed *the food*, and breaking the loaves, He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples *gave them* to the crowds, and they all ate and were satisfied.

# More Lessons for Disciples

- Jesus did things in an orderly manner
- He started with what His disciples gave Him
- He pointed them to heaven
- He prayed a blessing for the food they had
- He broke the loaves, and bread kept coming
- He used His disciples to distribute the food
- Everyone there ate and was satisfied.

## Matthew 14:20b-21

They picked up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve full baskets.

There were about five thousand men who ate, besides women and children.

# Final Lessons

- There was plenty left over –  
one basket full for each disciple
- The scope of the miracle was beyond  
anything they could have imagined!
- Jesus preached a message soon after this  
miracle – “I am the bread of life” (John 6)

# Psalm 132:15

For the LORD has chosen Zion;  
He has desired it for His habitation.  
“This is My resting place forever;  
Here I will dwell, for I have desired it.  
I will abundantly bless her provision;  
I will satisfy her needy with bread.”



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