

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

John Beheaded

Matthew 14:1-12

Do you ever remember a time when you felt guilty?

Or were guilty? (if 7 years haven't passed, legally don't tell us)

How did it make you act? Perceive things?

Titus 1:15-16 NKJV - To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled. They profess to know God, but in works they deny [Him], being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

**There's something about guilt, perversion That changes our thinking.
It changes our perception of reality.**

Guilt changes our thinking and behavior a lot like drugs

(what was in that fruit on the tree?)

- *When you're the liar or hiding things in a relationship and then begin to blame your s.o.*
- *Conspiracy theories (ones that don't turn out to be true)*
- *Pointing the finger (projecting)*
- *Calling evil good and good evil (society)*

Our motives begin to shift.

We excuse someone else's sin because we excuse our own.

**We condemn righteous things
because they expose our own condemnation.**

[Pray]

14:1-5

Herod the Tetrarch

Herod Antipas (was the second Herod)

“Herod” = heroic (the form/appearance of a hero)

Name of a royal family that flourished among the Jews in the times of Christ and the Apostles

Herod the Great - King in BC 40 by Roman Senate

Herod Antipas - His son (mother a Samaritan)

Herod Agrippa I accused him to Rome and Caligula banished him in A.D. 39. Tried to be the king of the area, ironically, also pushed by Herodias to do this (grandson of the Great)

Herod Agrippa II - AD 48 given kingdom from Claudius Caesar
Acts 25-26

Heard the report about Jesus

Jesus was well known in the area. Word spreads!

Luke 9:7-9 Now Herod the tetrarch heard of all that was done by Him; and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had risen from the dead, and by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the old prophets had risen again. Herod said, "John I have beheaded, but who is this of whom I hear such things?" So he sought to see Him.

Said to his servants...are these all his yes men?

Dangerous (esp. in leadership) to not have anyone around you with another point of view or unwilling to say it

- *Guys I talk with*
- *Unfortunately I know of some leadership circles like that - **it only hurts the people***
- *I've even been accused of being a yes-man just because I hung around. I was a yes-man in serving! But I didn't always agree. And I voiced my disagreement when given the opportunity.*

John the Baptist risen from the dead!

Ghost of baptist past?

His guilt caused him to believe this!

Ironical that he believed in resurrection being a murderer

If you're going to murder someone, you'd think you wouldn't do it if you thought they'd come back to get ya

“These powers” - dynamis (remember Jesus? The Holy Spirit?)

**Herod recognized the work of God in John the Baptist & Jesus
But did not ascribe them to God or give God his right place**

Romans 1:18-22 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown [it] to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible [attributes] are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify [Him] as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools,

**Wisdom begins with fearing God. Recognizing God for who He is.
We cannot be wise without it.**

This was when John was in prison, and discouraged (Matt. 11)

- Herod lived at two places, so either”
Imprisoned either at Machaerus east of Dead Sea
- Tiberias on western shore of Galilee

John’s ministry about a year and a half

(assuming just before Jesus’ baptism until now)

- 30 years of seclusion, 18 months of public preaching, 4 months in prison
- 31 or 32 when he died.
- Imprisoned about a year after Jesus’ baptism
- Beheaded at the time of the second Passover

Some say “Politics and Christianity don’t mix!

Separation of church and state!”

The Bible says John the Baptist was in prison for calling out the politician.

Repeatedly calling out.

What did John call out Herod for?

- Illegally divorcing his first wife (Pharisees would issue a writ of divorce for bad cooking, God hates divorce) Matthew 19
- Seduced and married Herodias, brother’s wife “lived publicly with him”

Taking his brother's wife for himself.

Who is Herodias?

- Grand daughter of Herod the Great...married her uncle Philip, then Antipas

Married his sister-in-law niece. Sounds very backwoods...

**But it was very public. It was in the highest political office in the land.
A disgrace to God's and His people as a nation.**

Should politicians be perfect? No.

But they shouldn't be blatantly perverse.

We're not electing spiritual leaders, but they should in office uphold good values.

And a King is different than a president or governor.

So why didn't Herod just kill John right away?

If he knew something about the Clintons he might have died right away.

Because he feared the people.

And the people considered (rightly) John a Prophet

Israel's long history of official prophets

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Elijah, etc.

We might consider someone like Billy Graham to be a prophet to America (evangelist)

*Imagine if Billy Graham had called out Reagan or Bush or Clinton
and they had him jailed or killed?*

Franklin Graham's inauguration prayer right in front of the evil people he was praying against.

Herod feared the court of public opinion.

He knew their unrest could threaten his throne. Not from them, but from Rome.

:6-12

Herod's birthday!

Did he hire a comedian? A clown? Go to Medieval Times?

No! He had a girl who could be his granddaughter

And she danced provocatively for him and his guests.
Remember, he married basically his niece and this was her daughter.
So the girl was his niece, too, through Philip. She's likely a young teenager.
Is this daytime junk TV?

She pleased Herod

"To strive to please"

I don't want to read too much into this
But this is gross. Perverted even if it wasn't his granddaughter-aged niece.

"The dancing of a mere girl would have been no entertainment to the sensual revelers. The treat lay in the indecency." (Bruce)

"The dances which these girls danced were suggestive and immoral. For a royal princess to dance in public at all was an amazing thing." (Barclay)

MLK. Civil rights hero. Baptist "minister."

There were some conspiracies and truths about his behind-the-scenes paper.
But the unclassified documents prove it even more.

That was behind the scenes. This was in front of everyone.

Turn to 1st Corinthians 5

It's one thing when the world sins
It's another when a "believer" does
How do they handle it?
How do we handle it?

It's one thing to struggle. Ask for help. Repent.
It's another thing to flaunt, have no conviction, support, praise it.

To the one struggling, help them and support them out of it.
To the one flaunting, resist, cast out - that they might learn

2 Corinthians Paul tells them to invite him back. He's learned his lesson.

Her mom again, telling her what to ask for

Totally unhealthy relationships all around.

Mom using (pimping!) her daughter in this way to get what she wants.

Herodias knew what would get Herod excited to make an extreme offer.

After all, her perversion probably is why he married her.

Mark 6:19, 21, 23 NKJV - Therefore Herodias held it against him and wanted to kill him, but she could not; ... Then an opportune day came when Herod on his birthday gave a feast for his nobles, the high officers, and the chief [men] of Galilee. ... He also swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half my kingdom."

Perversion for Herod got her half the kingdom. Why not her daughter?

She basically planned this whole party just to get John the Baptist killed.

**When one perversion is so strong in the child,
you know the parent had something to do with it.
Either through example, absence, or coercion.**

Many "confused" kids today - confused by their parents. No reason a little child can be so confused over who they are if their parent isn't the one confusing them.

Child trafficking. Many children trafficked by their parents for money.

Matthew 24:12 NKJV - "And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold."

Romans 1:26b "For even their women"

It says something dire about a society when even the women are no longer soft, sensitive, moral

Society starts to fall when men fail

Society has fallen when the woman have failed

We say how wicked of them! How does anyone do anything like that?

But...

- **Don't we teach young girls to dress and act provocatively?**
- **Get what they want by flirting**
- Bratz dolls, secular music - Ash listening to the spice girls as a kid and that's mild now)
- Child "modeling." Cheerleaders. The outfits of little girls?
- Bathing suits
- Yoga pants (literally look naked just in a different color)
- Bumper stickers
- Revealing and tight outfits (Trying to find quality modest clothes for our daughters is a

huge challenge)

- Cell phones, girls putting themselves on the internet
- Modern “dating” is free prostitution

I could go on for days on societal norms, what’s being taught in schools, taught by way of music and movies

“In these days mothers too often encourage their daughters in dress which is scarcely decent and introduce them to dances which are not commendable for purity. No good can come of this; it may please the Herods, but it displeases God.” (Spurgeon 1834-1892)

1 Timothy 2:9-10 in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.

Because of the oaths and because who was there

He’s just keeping his word! How honorable!

I’m sorry, but if you say you can have whatever you want and they want someone murdered you don’t have to keep that oath

John beheaded in prison

Can’t talk bad about what I’m doing if I cut your head off!

The spitefulness of this wicked woman!

Enabled by her wicked husband!

And his head on a platter!

Not just killed, but do it before the party’s over

Our next course! The cherry on top of the party, John’s head!

Brought to the girl, she brings to mom

The level of seared consciousness of these people to be able to do these things, ask for horrid things, carry a severed head around...

What I’ve heard about the modern parties of the rich and powerful...

Puffy, Epstein, Bohemian Grove, ...

What’s exalted on TV, parades, the education system...

This little girl’s perverted act purchases the death of the righteous prophet

Not unlike our sin leading to the death of Jesus

Herod was “sorry”

He wanted to see Jesus. He knew John was somebody special.

Was interested, in a perverse way, about the things of God, but was blinded by sin

He felt bad. He felt guilty.

He didn't want to kill John the Baptist, but not enough
to stop sinning or not have him killed.

The level of perversion to just have a righteous person killed because your wife wants it...

We can feel bad, but not do anything about it

Feeling bad, being sorry is not the same as repenting

Being sorry - you can be sorry for being caught

Sorry for having to do something, wish you didn't have to

All selfish

Repenting is not just sorry for yourself, it's not wanting anything to do with it anymore

Sorry for the effects it has on others

And so you go a different way.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God [is] faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear [it].

John's disciples come and bury his body

Not a fancy burial. Not rich.

Then go and tell Jesus

(Jesus is family, basically John's cousin)

That phone call is the one you never want to get

But this wasn't natural causes or a car accident

It was a sanctioned death of a righteous man by the perverse elite

Pardons of the prolifer...

So what can we take away? Perversion is nothing to be played with.

- *It corrupts judgment*

- *Corrupts relationships*
- *Destroys righteousness.*
- *It's in what we think.*
- *How we act.*
- *What we approve of.*
- *it's evident in our dress.*

Ephesians 5:3-4 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, **let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints**; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

Somehow, these crop up in an absence of thankfulness. T

o God and others. To the way things are and should be.

Our society is very ungrateful. It's no wonder the levels of perversion that have come along with it.

"Let it not be named among you."

"Rather, give thanks"

So let us be Thankful. Be single-minded for the kingdom, as John was.

A life laid down to point to Jesus.