



SUNDAY CLASS

1/1/09

Key Verses: Matthew 14:1-12

“John the Baptist had said concerning Christ, He must increase, but I must decrease, Jn. 3:30. The morning-star is here disappearing, and the Sun of righteousness rising to its meridian lustre.

Here is, The martyrdom of John; his imprisonment for his faithfulness to Herod (v. 1-5), and the beheading of him to please Herodias (v. 6-12).

II. The miracles of Christ.

1. His feeding five thousand men that came to him to be taught, with five loaves and two fishes (v. 13-21).
2. Christ's walking on the waves to his disciples in a storm (v. 22-23).
3. His healing the sick with the touch of the hem of his garment (v. 34-36).

Thus he went forth, thus he went on, conquering and to conquer, or rather, curing and to cure.”

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Matthew 14:1 (New International Version)

John the Baptist Beheaded

At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the reports about Jesus,



***Note, God will honor those that are despised for his sake.

***Note, It is the unhappiness of the great ones of the world, that they are most out of the way of hearing the best things (1 Co. 2:8).

***Note, Ministers may be silenced, and imprisoned, and banished, and slain, but the word of God cannot be run down.

The prophets live not for ever, but the word takes hold, Zec. 1:5, 6. See 2 Tim. 2:9. Sometimes God raises up many faithful ministers out of the ashes of one. This hope there is of God's trees, though they be cut down, Job 14:7-9."

****MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE*

The Two Olive Trees of Revelation - Moses and Elijah.

Revelation 11:1-14 (New International Version)

The Two Witnesses

I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshippers there. *2*But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months. *3*And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." *4*These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. *5*If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. *6*These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.

*7*Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. *8*Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. *9*For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. *10*The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.

*11*But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. *12*Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.

*13*At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

*14*The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon.

Mark 6:14-29 (New International Version)

John the Baptist Beheaded

*14*King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying,^[a] "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him."

*15*Others said, "He is Elijah."

And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago."

*16*But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, the man I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!" *17*For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married. *18*For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." *19*So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, *20*because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled^[b]; yet he liked to listen to him.

*21*Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. *22*When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests. The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you." *23*And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom." *24*She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?" "The head of John the Baptist," she answered. *25*At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter." *26*The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. *27*So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, *28*and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. *29*On hearing of this, John's disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

Luke 9:7-9 (New International Version)

*7*Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was going on. And he was perplexed, because some were saying that John had been raised from the dead, *8*others that Elijah had appeared, and still others that one of the prophets of long ago had come back to life. *9*But Herod said, "I beheaded John. Who, then, is this I hear such things about?" And he tried to see him.

Mark 8:15 (New International Version)

15"Be careful," Jesus warned them. "Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod."

Luke 3:19 (New International Version)

*19*But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and all the other evil things he had done,

Luke 13:31 (New International Version)

Jesus' Sorrow for Jerusalem

31At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you."

Luke 23:7 (New International Version)

7When he learned that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

Acts 4:27 (New International Version)

27Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people^[a] of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed.

Acts 12:1 (New International Version)

Peter's Miraculous Escape From Prison

It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them.

Acts 13:1 (New International Version)

Barnabas and Saul Sent Off

In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul.

Matthew 14:2 (New International Version)

2and he said to his attendants, "This is John the Baptist; he has risen from the dead! That is why miraculous powers are at work in him."

“There is no resurrection (Acts 23:8); or else Herod’s guilty conscience (as is usual with atheists) did at this time get the mastery of his opinion, and now he concludes, whether there be a general resurrection or no, that John the Baptist is certainly risen, and therefore mighty works do show forth themselves in him. John, while he lived, did no miracle (Jn. 10:41); but Herod concludes, that, being risen from the dead, he is clothed with a greater power than he had while he was living. And he very well calls the miracles he supposed him to work, not his mighty works, but mighty works showing forth themselves in him.”

“***Note, Ministers may be silenced, and imprisoned, and banished, and slain, but the word of God cannot be run down.”

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Matthew 16:14 (New International Version)

*14*They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

Mark 6:14 (New International Version)

John the Baptist Beheaded

*14*King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying,^[a] "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him."

Luke 9:7 (New International Version)

*7*Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was going on. And he was perplexed, because some were saying that John had been raised from the dead,

Matthew 14:3 (New International Version)

*3*Now Herod had arrested John and bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife,

Matthew 4:12 (New International Version)

Jesus Begins to Preach

*12*When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he returned to Galilee.

Matthew 11:2 (New International Version)

*2*When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples

John 3:22-24 (New International Version)

John the Baptist's Testimony About Jesus

*22*After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized. *23*Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were constantly coming to be baptized. *24*(This was before John was put in prison.)

Matthew 14:4 (New International Version)

*4*for John had been saying to him: "It is not lawful for you to have her."

Leviticus 18:16 (New International Version)

16 "Do not have sexual relations with your brother's wife; that would dishonor your brother.

Leviticus 20:21 (New International Version)

21 "If a man marries his brother's wife, it is an act of impurity; he has dishonored his brother. They will be childless.

***Note, (1.) That which by the law of God is unlawful to other people, is by the same law unlawful to princes and the greatest of men. They who rule over men must not forget that they are themselves but men, and subject to God. "It is not lawful for thee, any more than for the meanest subject thou hast, to debauch another man's wife." There is no prerogative, no, not for the greatest and most arbitrary kings, to break the laws of God.

(2.) If princes and great men break the law of God, it is very fit they should be told of it by proper persons, and in a proper manner. As they are not above the commands of God's word, so they are not above the reproofs of his ministers. It is not fit indeed, to say to a king, Thou art Belial (Job 34:18), any more than to call a brother Raca, or, Thou fool: it is not fit, while they keep within the sphere of their own authority, to arraign them. But it is fit that, by those whose office it is, they should be told what is unlawful, and told with application, Thou art the man; for it follows there (v. 19), that God (whose agents and ambassadors faithful ministers are) accepteth not the persons of princes, nor regardeth the rich more than the poor."

***Note, (1.) Faithful reproofs, if they do not profit, usually provoke; if they do not do good, they are resented as affronts, and they that will not bow to the reproof, will fly in the face of the reprover and hate him, as Ahab hated Micah, 1 Ki. 22:8. See Prov. 9:8; 15:10, 12.

Proverbs 9:8 (New International Version)

8 Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you;
rebuke a wise man and he will love you.

Proverbs 15:10 (New International Version)

10 Stern discipline awaits him who leaves the path;
he who hates correction will die.

Proverbs 15:12 (New International Version)

12 A mocker resents correction;
he will not consult the wise.

Veritas odium parit—Truth produces hatred.

(2.) It is no new thing for God's ministers to suffer ill for doing well. Troubles abide those most that are most diligent and faithful in doing their duty, Acts 20:20. Perhaps some of John's friends would blame him as indiscreet in reproving Herod, and tell him he had better be silent than provoke Herod, whose character he knew very well, thus to deprive him of his liberty; but away with that discretion that would hinder men from doing their duty as magistrates, ministers, or Christian friends; I believe John's own heart did not reproach him for it, but this testimony of his conscience for him made his bonds easy, that he suffered for well-doing, and not as a busy-body in other men's matters, 1 Pt. 4:15."

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Matthew 14:5 (New International Version)

5Herod wanted to kill John, but he was afraid of the people, because they considered him a prophet.

"That which hindered him was his fear of the multitude, because they counted John as a prophet. It was not because he feared God (if the fear of God had been before his eyes he would not have imprisoned him), nor because he feared John, though formerly he had had a reverence for him (his lusts had overcome that), but because he feared the people; he was afraid for himself, his own safety, and the safety of his government, his abuse of which he knew had already rendered him odious to the people, whose resentments being so far heated already would be apt, upon such a provocation as the putting of a prophet to death, to break out into a flame.

***Note, [1.] Tyrants have their fears. Those who are, and affect to be, the terror of the mighty, are many times the greatest terror of all to themselves; and when they are most ambitious to be feared by the people, are most afraid of them.

[2.] Wicked men are restrained from the most wicked practices, merely by their secular interest, and not by any regard to God. A concern for their ease, credit, wealth, and safety, being their reigning principle, as it keeps them from many duties, so it keeps them from many sins, which otherwise they would not be restrained from; and this is one means by which sinners are kept from being overmuch wicked, Eccl. 7:17. The danger of sin that appears to sense, or to fancy only, influences men more than that which appears to faith. Herod feared that the putting of John to death might raise a mutiny among the people, which it did not; but he never feared it might raise a mutiny in his own conscience, which it did, v. 2. Men fear being hanged for that which they do not fear being damned for."

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Matthew 11:9 (New International Version)

9Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

Matthew 21:26 (New International Version)

They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Then why didn't you believe him?' 26But if we say, 'From men'—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet."

Matthew 21:46 (New International Version)

46They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

Matthew 14:6 (New International Version)

6On Herod's birthday the daughter of Herodias danced for them and pleased Herod so much

“***Note, Cross the carnal appetites, and they turn into the most barbarous passions; it was a woman, a whore, and the mother of harlots, that was drunk with the blood of the saints, Rev. 17:5, 6.”

****MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE*

Matthew 14:7 (New International Version)

7that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked.

Ecclesiastes 5:4-5 (New International Version)

4 When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow. 5 It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it.

Matthew 14:8 (New International Version)

8Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist."

Matthew 14:9 (New International Version)

9The king was distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he ordered that her request be granted

“ So, though Herodias contrive the beheading of John, yet if Herod consent to it, and take pleasure in it, he is not only an accessory, but a principal murderer”

“It was a very extravagant obligation which Herod here entered into, and no way becoming a prudent man that is afraid of being snared in the words of his mouth (Prov. 6:2), much less a good man that fears an oath, Eccl. 9:2”.

Ecclesiastes 9:2 (New International Version)

2 All share a common destiny—the righteous and the wicked, the good and the bad, ^[a] the clean and the unclean, those who offer sacrifices and those who do not.

As it is with the good man,
so with the sinner;
as it is with those who take oaths,
so with those who are afraid to take them.

“***Note, Promissory oaths are ensnaring things, and, when made rashly, are the products of inward corruption, and the occasion of many temptations.”

****MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE*

Matthew 14:10 (New International Version)

10 and had John beheaded in the prison.

“The execution of John, pursuant to this grant (v. 10); He sent and beheaded John in the prison. It is probable the prison was very near, at the gate of the palace; and an officer was sent to cut off the head of this great man. He must be beheaded with expedition, to gratify Herodias, who was in a longing condition till it was done. It was done in the night, for it was at supper-time, after supper, it is likely. It was done in the prison, not at the usual place of execution, for fear of an uproar.

A great deal of innocent blood, of martyr’s blood, has thus been huddled up in corners, which, when God comes to make inquisition for blood, the earth shall disclose, and shall no more cover, Isa. 26:21; Ps. 9:12.

Thus was that voice silenced, that burning and shining light extinguished; thus did that prophet, that Elias, of the new Testament, fall a sacrifice to the resentments of an imperious, whorish woman.

Thus did he, who was great in the sight of the Lord, die as a fool dieth, his hands were bound, and his feet put into fetters; and as a man falleth before wicked men, so he fell, a true martyr to all intents and purposes: dying, though not for the professions of his faith, yet for the performance of his duty.”

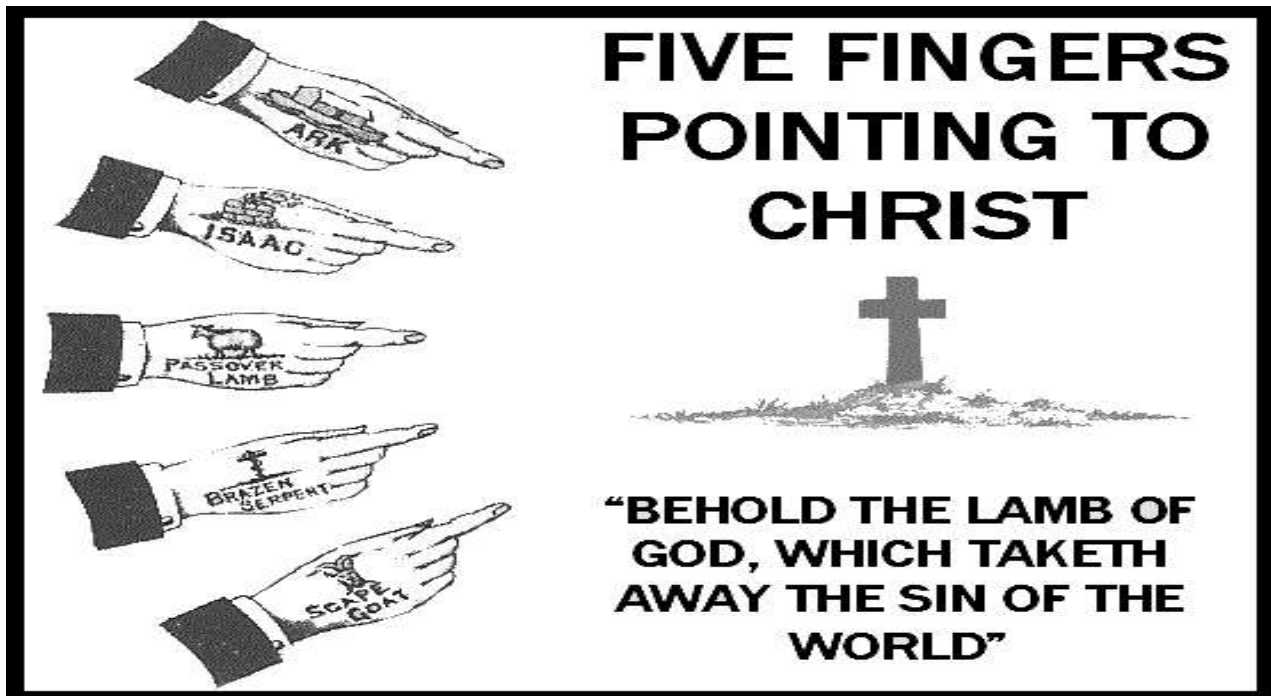
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Matthew 14:11 (New International Version)

11His head was brought in on a platter and given to the girl, who carried it to her mother.

Matthew 14:12 (New International Version)

12John's disciples came and took his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus.



***Clarence Larkin's Bible Charts - Dispensational Truth