

THE KING IS REJECTED BY THE REGIONAL RULER  
(Matthew 14:1-13)

- I. Herod's EXECUTION of JOHN THE BAPTIST (Matt. 14:3-12)
  - A. John was a RIGHTEOUS PROPHET (14:3a)
    - 1. Message was a call to REPENT and prepare for the KING (cf. 3:2)
    - 2. General response had been overwhelmingly POSITIVE (cf. 3:5)
    - 3. Ministry characterized by FEARLESS CONFRONTATION (cf. 3:7)
  - B. Herod was a WICKED DESPOT (14:3b-4; cf. 4:12)
    - 1. He ARRESTED John for his presumption
    - 2. He wanted to KILL him, but FEARED the CROWD
  - C. Herodias was an EVIL MANIPULATOR
    - 1. She took advantage of Herod's BIRTHDAY
    - 2. She had her DAUGHTER dance for the REVELERS
    - 3. Herod made a FOOLISH PROMISE (cf. Mk. 6:23)
    - 4. Salome demanded the HEAD of John the Baptist
    - 5. Herod sent for JOHN'S HEAD
    - 6. He gave it to Salome, who TOOK it to HER MOTHER

D. John's disciples treated his BODY with RESPECT

1. They BURIED his BODY
2. They "REPORTED to JESUS"

II. Herod's CONCLUSION about JESUS (Matt. 14:1-2)

A. Herod "HEARD the NEWS about Jesus"

1. It was "at THAT TIME"
2. He heard of Jesus' MIRACULOUS POWERS

B. Herod concluded that JOHN had RISEN from the DEAD

III. Jesus' REACTION to HEROD (Matt. 14:13)

A. Jesus LEFT by BOAT

B. He went to a "SECLUDED place by HIMSELF"