

“The King Was Sorry”

Matt. 14:3-12

Introduction:

A. John the Baptist was *a strong preacher*.

1. Forerunner of Jesus. (Matt. 3:2,3).
2. Confronted sin even in high places.

B. Herod was *a weak king*.

1. Ruled by a wicked wife.
2. Ruled by passion rather than reason.
3. Gave in to pressures and executed John - was sorry, but not Godly sorrow (cf. 2 Cor. 7:10):

Discussion:

I. The Pressure of Unresolved Guilt.

A. Herod knew his guilt, but resented being told of it. (Luke 3:19-20).

1. Added guilt to guilt. (“also added to this”)
2. Became enemy of one who told him the truth. (cf. Gal. 4:16).

B. People react differently when confronted with guilt

1. Some acknowledge it, but do nothing about it.
2. Some, like Herod, fight reproof - sink deeper “quicksand” of sin.
3. Some, like the pentecostians, repent and be baptized as alien sinner. (Acts 2:36-38)
4. Some, like Simon, repent and pray as erring Christians (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9).

II. The Pressure of Unwise or Unlawful Relationships.

A. Herod dominated by unlawful wife and step-daughter.

1. Had no business with them in first place.
2. Should have controlled them in second place.

B. Many dominated by personal relationships.

1. Social or business relationships.
2. Family relationship.
 - a. Putting family ahead of the Lord and His righteousness. (Matt. 10:32-37).
 - b. Undisciplined children.
 - c. Unlawful marriage. (Matt. 5:32; 19:9).
 - d. Unwise marriage. (cf. 1 Cor. 7:28).
 - e. How many sorrowful situations can be explained by “*for he had married her*”?

III. The Pressure of An Unwholesome Atmosphere.

A. Wild birthday party adversely influenced Herod. (cf. Mk. 6:19-20).

1. Lascivious dance. (Mk. 6:23).
2. Ungodly guests. (Mk. 6:26).

B. Unwholesome atmosphere places Christians at disadvantage.

1. Compromising situations for social and economic reasons.
2. Drinking and lasciviousness (exposure, speech, gestures & general environment) leads to no good.
3. Such worldliness is incompatible with Christian behavior. (1 Cor. 5:9-13; Jas. 4:4; 1 Pet. 4:1-4; 1 John 2:14,16).

Conclusion:

A. Remove guilt.

B. Resist family pressures and those of other relationships.

C. Avoid compromising environment.