

The Way We See Things

Matthew 14:1-13, (Mark 6:14-29)

Intro:

- A. **In these verses we learn of the way in which John the Baptist died.**
 - 1. He was in prison.
 - 2. He was beheaded.
 - 3. he was done wrong for doing right.

- B. **There are many persons involved in this tragedy.**
 - 1. This is usually the fact in all things.
 - 2. No man lives unto himself and no man dies unto himself, so says our Bibles.
 - 3. Let us examine this event and how the persons involved happened to see it.

I. Herod And How He Saw Things.

- A. **He was a powerful ruler, a tetrarch.**
 - 1. He heard of the fame of Jesus.
 - 2. He felt deep guilt for having slain John.

- B. **Herod's treatment of John.**
 - 1. He had John arrested. **V.3a**
 - 2. He had him placed in prison. **V.3b**
 - 3. He did this for his wife's sake. **V.3c**
 - 4. He did it because John told the truth. **V.4**
 - 5. He had John beheaded. **V.10**
 - 6. He did it for the sake of evil companions. **v.9, Mark 6:26**
 - 7. He did it for an oath's sake. **V.11**
 - 8. He was sorry. "And the King was sorry." **V.9**

II. Herodias And How She Saw Things.

- A. **John was a rebuke to her character.**
 - 1. She despised John for rebuking her and her husband.
 - 2. She harbored a grudge against him.

- B. **She manipulated others to get her way.**
 - 1. She manipulated events of her family, her husband's birthday.
 - 2. She manipulated Salome, her daughter.

III. Salome And How She Saw Things.

- A. **He was an enemy of the family.**
 - 1. He had done, "daddy" wrong.
 - 2. He had done mamma wrong.
- B. **He was an expendable person.**
 - 1. She would use him to please her mother.
 - 2. She had no compassion for Him as a human, no respect for him as a prophet.

IV. The Guests And How They Saw Things.

- A. **They were inner circle friends.**
 - 1. The one's who practiced political correctness.
 - 2. They were complimenters and savvy.
- B. **They were without moral character.**
 - 1. No one knows what they had been.
 - 2. Their moral compasses were flawed.

V. John And How He Saw Things.

- A. **He saw things from a prison.**
 - 1. This was the beginning of such suffering.
 - 2. It will cause one to react in one of two ways, to be better or to be worse.
 - 3. Matthew 11:6
- B. **He saw things as a faithful servant.**
 - 1. He had done nothing amiss.
 - 2. He had told the truth.
- C. **He saw things as a proclaimer of things new.**
 - 1. The kingdom of heaven is at hand.
 - 2. Where is the King?
 - 3. Is Jesus the one?
- D. **He saw things as a loser.**
 - 1. He would not leave prison.
 - 2. He would not be avenged.
 - 3. He would not see his enemies rebuked.

VI. John's Disciples And How They Saw Things.

- A. **They did what had to be done. V.12**

1. They came to the ugly scene.
2. They buried John's body.
3. They told Jesus.

B. They were left as mourners.

1. John was to decrease.
2. He had to be removed from the scene.

VII. God And How He Saw Things.

A. God was not surprised.

1. God had a plan for John.
2. This plan had been completed.
3. John will be vindicated and rewarded.

B. God was still in control.

1. He had not given in to emotion.
2. The plan was still in effect.
3. I have to stop now, to much pain, sorrow, bloodshed.

C. God would work all things for good.

1. The life of John.
2. The message of John.
3. The death of John.

VIII. How Do You See Things?

A. How do you see God's servants?

1. Men who are deluded and silly.
2. Men to be honored and listened to?

B. How do you see His people?

1. Are they saints of God?
2. Is the church to be served or used?

C. How do you see life?

1. An opportunity to get?
2. An opportunity to give?

D. How do you see Jesus?

1. A biblical figure embedded in myths?
2. The Lamb of God that taketh away...?