

SG Discussion Questions

for Personal Study and Small Groups 6/23/13

Headline: The Greatest Man to Ever Live is Beheaded! Matthew 14.1-14

Purpose of SG: to foster in its members the biblical values of worship (God), discipleship (church), and outreach (lost).

2013 Annual Focus: Drawing Near to the Good and Mighty King.

SG Discussion Questions:

Focus: *to highlight the stark contrast between the moral depravity of Herod & Herodias with the moral integrity of John the Baptist.*

Icebreaker: What has been the most shocking (horrific) news story of your lifetime? What made it so horrific?

Read Matthew 14:1-12 and the parallel account in Mark 6:16-29.

After reading these parallel accounts, what moral weaknesses do you see in Herod & Herodias? Connect these sin struggles to Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount (5:17-48)?

Knowing your group, discuss the areas that may be the greatest potential danger for them. Be sure to help them move from intellectual ascent to personal, heart application:

- Obedience to the Law (17-20): Which of God's commands do you struggle to listen to when a friend reminds you of them? Why is that command so difficult for you?
- Anger (21-26): How does your anger, bitterness, resentment impact your relationships?
- Lust (27-30): So where do your lusts lead you? In what specific ways are you currently implementing Jesus' radical strategy to kill sin? ([best for gender specific acct](#))
- Divorce (31-32): In what ways is your marriage a living picture of the Gospel? Where do you struggle?
- Oaths (33-37): What promises have you made in order to get what you wanted? What does this reveal to you?
- Retaliation (38-42): In what ways do you struggle to lay down your rights for another, to give to the one who has taken, to sacrifice for your enemy?
- Love Your Enemies (43-48): So how do you treat your enemies? How does your remembrance of how much you have been forgiven drive you to forgive others?

How was Jake so confident that Herod was not truly repentant? (Use Scripture to support your point). Read 2 Cor. 7:9-10 and discuss the difference between godly & worldly sorrow.

What attribute of John are you most inspired by? Why?