

# **Sovereign Grace Church**

## **“Herod and Jesus” outline**

March 1, 2020

### **Matthew 14: 1-21**

*Jesus' feeding of the 5000 is one of the better known stories from the New Testament. It is the only miracle apart from the resurrection that is recorded in all four Gospels. It is the story of Jesus multiplying food enough for 12 in order to make it serve many many more. It is a clear demonstration of the power of God in serving whatever purpose He chooses with whatever happens to be available. The overall context for this meal is Jesus' invitation and demonstration of what life is like when lived in His Kingdom.*

*Although not often considered, the preceding account of Herod and his birthday celebration provide a rather stark contrast between life lived under our own authority and power in contrast with that of a life lived under Christ's authority and power. We will consider this contrast during this morning's message. It is a contrast between two meals.*

#### **1. Herod's meal vv 1-12**

- **Herod becomes aware of Jesus vv 1-2**
- **Herod's wonder at Jesus' miracles vv 3-5**  
**Background story of John the Baptist**
- **Herod's birthday party v. 6**
- **Salome's birthday wish vv. 7-8**
- **Herod's very fleshly response vv. 9-11**

#### **2. Jesus' meal vv 13-21**

- **Jesus' Response v. 13a**
- **Interrupted by the People v. 13b**

- **Jesus Adapts v. 14**
- **The Meal vv. 15-21**

### **3. Our Choice: Life with Jesus or Life with me**

- **Acts in the Flesh**
- **Acts in the Spirit**

#### **Questions for Reflection and Discussion**

- 1. How might the account of Herod and his birthday celebration be changed if he were living in Christ's Kingdom instead of his own? Think of how the various people in the story might have reacted differently? Would anyone have acted the same? Who?**
- 2. What do you think the disciples learned from observing Jesus' response to His cousin John's death? What do we learn?**
- 3. What can we learn from this comparison as we seek to live in Christ's Kingdom? Was it wrong for Jesus to seek solitude to grieve for His cousin? Would it have been wrong for Him to have dismissed the crowds because they were interrupting His plans? Why didn't He just send them away to eat in the local villages? Do you think there would have been enough food for them there?**
- 4. Contrast the feeding of the 5000 with God's provision of manna for the recently delivered Israelites in Exodus 16; Jesus' refusal to multiply bread in Matthew 4; Jesus breaking bread during the Last Supper in Matthew 26. What can we learn from these comparisons? What is the point of offering our works to Jesus before we engage this fallen world in ministry?**