

Overcoming Ourselves

Matthew 14:1-12

Introduction:

- Sinful behavior is just s_____ in various forms.
 1. Our biggest enemy is our own s_____.
 2. Jesus said in Lk 9:23 we must d_____ ourselves.
- Our study text today is Matt 14:1-12
 1. News of Jesus's miracles spread to King Herod and he thought that John the Baptist had r_____ from the dead.
 2. Matthew then records how John the Baptist d_____.
 3. In this explanation we find the problem with self and how to overcome ourselves before destroying our lives.

The solution to selfishness – s_____ (1-4)

- The ultimate example of s_____ - Herod
 1. Who is Herod? – the o_____ son of the King Herod that wanted to kill baby Jesus (see Matt 2). His birth name was Antipas.
 2. The Jewish historian Josephus gives us details of Antipas (Antiquities 18:5)
 - a. Married the daughter of an Arab ruler in 14 A.D. for the purpose of maintaining p_____ between Israel and Arabia.
 - b. Became infatuated with Herodias, his brother's w_____.
 - c. Herodias saw this and convinced Antipas to d_____ his Arab wife and marry her.
 - d. Because of this, the Arabs attacked and w_____ Antipas's army (The Roman Empire had to step in).
 - e. Antipas continued serving his own interests and was eventually e_____.
 3. Selfishness is self-d_____ and destroys relationships (you cannot lay down your head in peace)
 - a. M_____
 - b. F_____
 - c. Within the c_____
- The contrasting example of s_____ - John the Baptist
 1. John the Baptist pointed Herod to God's _____ (v. 4)
 - a. John lived in o_____ to God.
 - b. John gained n_____ as a prophet of God.

2. Rom 12:1 commands us to be l_____ sacrifices
 - a. This b_____ relationships stronger
 - b. You can lay down your head in peace.

Under peer pressure, p_____ to Christ (5-12)

● Antipas buckled to peer pressure

1. Because the public considered John a prophet, Antipas j_____ John instead of killing him (v. 5)
2. His wife, Herodias wanted John dead and found a perfect opportunity at Antipas's b_____ party
 - a. Antipas promised before his important guests to fulfill the wish of Herodias's d_____ (*I will give you whatever you want*)
 - b. Her mom (Herodias) prompted her to ask for the h_____ of John the Baptist on a platter.
3. Antipas fulfilled the request because of his g_____ (he was pressured into an action, he really did not want to do)

● Common actions do to peer pressure

1. S_____ (to be cool)
2. D_____ (to be in with the crowd)
3. S_____ (*if you love me you will*)
4. Stupid a_____ on a dare.

● John the Baptist pointed people to Christ

1. Yes, he got jailed and beheaded (that was not his f_____ but the fault of Antipas).
2. His alternative was not to stand for Christ (that would have been his f_____)

● Standing for what is right, points people to Christ

1. We live in a culture that has changing standards. We live among people who base life on mere opinion.
2. You be
 - a. The l_____ in a world full of darkness.
 - b. The r_____ in a world of shifting sands.
 - c. The h_____ in a world of uncertainty.

Conclusion:

- Overcome yourself by s_____ for the good of others (marriage, friendships, church, etc)
- Don't give others power over you. Let God empower you to be the stabilizing force in this world.