

Title: "Missing the Point About Jesus "

Text: Matthew 14:1-12

Theme: Matthew writes his Gospel so that you see the real Jesus, not some counterfeit or a reasonable facsimile thereof. Know the real Jesus by knowing His Word. Accept no substitutes.

I. Herod's _____ of Jesus Shows That He Misunderstands Who He Is (1-2)

II. Herod's _____ of John the Baptist Demonstrates His _____ to Think Clearly (3-12)

III. Applications

A. If you draw _____ about Jesus that are not _____ in what God has _____ about Him, you will miss the point.

B. You _____ to have authority you do not possess when you draw
_____ about Christ apart from _____.

C. You can never completely _____ a _____
_____. You will _____ yourself thinking that you have
_____ that you do not really have.

D. If you miss who Jesus really is, you miss the true and only _____ who can
_____ you from your _____.

Questions to Discuss at Home or in Small Groups

1. Who heard reports about Jesus' fame (v. 1)?
2. What specifically did he hear about Jesus (v. 2)?
3. What was his explanation for why this was happening (v. 2)?
4. Why did Herod have this view of Jesus (vv. 3-11)?
5. What had Herod initially done to John (v. 3)?
6. Why had Herod done this (v. 4)?
7. What did Herod ultimately want to do to John (v. 5a)? What prevented him from carrying this out (v. 5b)?
8. What special event led to John the Baptist's death (v. 6a)?
9. What happened at this event that trapped Herod into executing John the Baptist (vv. 6-8)?
10. How did Herod respond to the request from the girl who danced for him (v. 9)?
11. What did the girl do with the head of John the Baptist that was presented to her (v. 11)?
12. What did John the Baptist's disciples do when this happened (v. 12)?
13. What are some strange views that people have had about who Jesus is and what He did?
14. What do you think is the main reason why people have wrong ideas about Jesus?
15. How critical to life is having a wrong view of Jesus?
16. How does Judaism view Jesus? Islam? Hinduism? Buddhism?
17. What is the Scripture's view of Jesus?
18. How might a guilty conscience trick you about who Jesus is and what He has done?
19. What ultimately leads you to have a true understanding of who Jesus is (see Matthew 16:17)?
20. How can the Church be more effective in communicating who Jesus really is to the culture in which she finds herself?
21. What do you think might happen to a church when the person of Christ is rarely preached and taught?
22. How can you ensure that your children do not miss the point about who Jesus is? How will you know if they are misunderstanding Him? How can you stay alert and aware of their relationship with Christ?