
IGNATIUS
Catholic Study Bible

The Gospel of
MATTHEW

IB



Commentary, Notes, & Study Questions

Revised Standard Version
Second Catholic Edition

Sunday Bible College

Chapter 14

Death of John Baptist
Feeding Five Thousand
Walk on the Sea
Healings at Gennesaret

Holy Trinity
Anglican Church
Fernandina Beach, Florida

Death of John the Baptist

Matthew 14:1-12

How many Herods are in the Bible?

Death of John the Baptist

Matthew 14:1-12

How many Herods are in the Bible?

At least four different men are called Herod in Scripture.

King Herod the Great

Herod Archelaus (Ethnarch of Samaria)

Herod Antipas (Tetrarch of Galilee)

Herod Philip (Tetrarch of Caesarea Philippi)

Death of John the Baptist

Matthew 14:1-12

The Kingdom of Herod the Great, after his death, divided into four parts by Caesar Augustus

Light Green = Herod Archaleus

Purple = Herod Antipas

Yellow = The independent cites of the Decapolis

Orange = Herod Philip I



Death of John the Baptist

Matthew 14:1-12

Herod Antipas

1. Tried to marry Herod Philip's wife Herodias (Salome was Philips daughter)
2. Arrested John for objecting
3. This is the same "Herod" who later remanded Jesus into the hands of Pontius Pilate



Death of John the Baptist

Matthew 14:1-12

Reasons for Herod's deep insecurity:

1. Was disinherited by his father when he tried to have the King poisoned.
2. Was made ruler only by order of Caesar after the intervention of the elite on his behalf - the same elite he entertained in his feast.
3. Was not granted title of King but of Tetrarch (ruler of a fourth)
4. His family had converted to Judaism but it was always seen as a political move to shore up power, and he was deeply unpopular with the people.

Death of John the Baptist

Matthew 14:1-12

5. He divorced his wife to marry his brother's wife. Solome, who danced before him, was his brother's daughter.

6. Since he ruled at Caesar's pleasure Herod Antipas knew that any unrest in his region would bring the wrath of Rome.

(FUN FACT: long after the resurrection of Jesus, Antipas and Herodius finally fell afoul of Caesar and died in exile.)

Death of John the Baptist

Matthew 14:1-12

"The story of the murder of John is a story of the world of power, sex and intrigue. It is the story of our world - the one for which Jesus is the alternative."

Stanley Hauerwas, Matthew, Brazos Commentaries, p.137

Death of John the Baptist

Matthew 14:1-12

Please note the following Facts

- 1. Herod was afraid of losing his power.**
- 2. Herod made a rash promise (out of drunkenness) which he could not keep since:**
 - a. He was not a king and had no kingdom to share with anyone.**
 - b. His authority derived from Caesar and only Caesar could appoint a new ruler.**

Death of John the Baptist

Matthew 14:1-12

What are we supposed to get from this bit of gruesome history?

Death of John the Baptist

Matthew 14:1-12

What are we supposed to get from this bit of gruesome history?

Matthew is put in mind of this story because of Herod's reaction to learning of Jesus.

Something about Jesus, so loving, meek and mild, had a way of making people panic.

Death of John the Baptist

Matthew 14:1-12

What are we supposed to get from this bit of gruesome history?

Herod is the very opposite of Jesus.

Jesus is Son of David and rightful heir to the throne of his kingdom.

Jesus acts in the confidence of his Father's perfect blessing

Jesus does not grasp his glory and power but sacrifices them for the sake of his people

Death of John the Baptist

Matthew 14:1-12

In chapter four, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he went away to be alone and to pray.

Here, in chapter 14, when John's disciples bury him, they immediately go tell Jesus.

And Jesus got in a boat and went away to a lonely place.

Death of John the Baptist

Matthew 14:1-12

But, as before, the people will not leave him alone, but follow him to his lonely place.

Where Jesus prepares a feast for his people.

Hint, Hint: This is no accident. Matthew wants us to compare the feast of Herod with the Feast of Jesus - which we will do in our next lesson.