



Title: Momentary Ministries of the Messiah (part 1) – Opposition and Withdrawal

Text: Matt. 13:54-58; 14:1-36 (our focus for today will be 14:1-13a)

14:12 And his disciples came, and took up the body, and buried it, and went and told Jesus. (v.13a)
When Jesus heard of it, he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart:”

Introduction:

1. The Lord Jesus presented Himself as the Messiah-King but was rejected.
2. Because they rejected Him – He will reject them (religious and political rulers).
3. He will be involved in instructing His disciples, building His church, and rejecting unbelievers. (Chs. 14-19)

I. Herod’s Ignorance concerning the Lord Jesus & John the Baptist (vv.1-12)

- A. “At that time” – marks the change in Matthew’s narrative.
- B. Herod mistakes Jesus for John. Though both had a miraculous birth, both had a Spirit-filled ministry, both experienced a violent death.
- C. The Wicked Herodian Family:
 1. Rome divided Israel’s land into four section (Gaulantis; Decapolis; Galilea-Perea; Samaria-Judea).
 2. Rome assigned Herod the Great to rule over the Jews.
 3. Herod the Great had many sons but the Bible only mentions four:
 - 3.1. Herod Archelaus (Joseph refused to live in Judea bec. of him).
 - 3.2. Herod Antipas (Galilean ruler during the time of Jesus).
 - 3.3. Herod Aristobulus IV – killed by his own father. But not before he was able to begat a son (Herod Agrippa 1) and a daughter (Herodias).
 - 3.4. Herod Philip II – marries Herodias (Salome was their daughter) but she got a divorce and Herodias married Herod Antipas.
 - 3.5. Herod Philip 1 – develop Caesarea Philippi – married Salome and were banished by the Roman Emperor Caligula.
 - 3.6. Herod Agrippa 1 becomes ruler of Judea – Acts 12 – killed James and imprisoned Peter intending to execute him.
 - 3.7. Herod Agrippa 2 – installed by Roman Emperor Claudius – and ruled over Syria (including Judea) and dealt with Paul.
- D. The Cause and Manner of John the Baptist’s Death – (14:13-21).
- E. Hasmonean Family – Religious Leaders (Jewish but not the lineage of David).

II. What was the Lord Jesus’ strategy? (vv.13a)

- A. He departed.
- B. He ministered to the people who followed him. (His disciples/apostles; His disciples remnant (churches); the unbelieving multitudes)

Conclusion:

1. The imprisonment of John signaled the Lord’s ministry relocation to Galilee (Matt. 4:12).
2. Families exert influence. For the Herodian Family – they did wrong; for the Hasmonean Family – they did wrong. What about your family?
3. John the Baptist had a burial – burials look forward to a resurrection.
4. John’s death also signaled Jesus’ coming death. And the Lord Jesus made preparations.