

LIFE Group Sermon Questions

Promise Fulfilled: Persecution

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8/17/2025

Matthew 14:1-12



THE ORCHARD

Sermon Outline

- I. Herod the tyrant gives us **a warning to heed** and **a sin to avoid**.
- II. John the martyr gives us **an example to follow** and **a command to obey**.
- III. And Jesus the savior gives us **a promise to believe**.

Discussion Questions

1. What did you learn today from the Scripture passage(s) that you didn't know before? What is something that hit you in a fresh way?
2. How does James 1:14-15 help us to see why living as you wish, or doing what is right in your own eyes, is a warning to heed?
 - a.) What encouragement do we get from the Holy Spirit in helping us with not living as we wish?
3. In verses 5-9, we read about the sin that Herod had to avoid. How does Herod show his fear of man?
 - a) What are some ways in which you, and I, struggle with the fear of man?
 - b) In pursuing the fear of the Lord, what are practical ways that we can fear God instead of fearing man?
4. John the Baptist was imprisoned because he feared God, and told the truth to Herod, despite the persecution that came with it- imprisonment. How is John the Baptist a good example, for us, to follow here?
 - a.) How does James 5:19-20 challenge us with both our Church family, and our family members, or friends, who are unbelievers?
5. By now we would have seen the obvious comparisons between Herod and John the Baptist. John feared God and Herod feared man. How does Matthew 10:28 help us to see why John the Baptist was willing to call out Herod in his sin, and face tough consequences?
6. In a world that is filled with pain and depravity, how does knowing that Jesus is the resurrection and the life, comfort us as we navigate living in a fallen world?