

WHERE DO WE FIT IN THE STORY?

1. Text: Matthew 14:3-11
2. Compare Mark 6:14-29 for a fuller account.
3. Here is a dramatic, horrifying scene from the first century.
4. Found here are five types of people, clearly carefully drawn. In which category do you and I fall?

I. **The Weak One**

1. Herod appears strong, powerful one here; tetrarch of Galilee.
2. Actually he is weak. Why? Sensualist. All we know of him says this.
3. He stole brother's wife when had one. Lord made no response when on trial before him. This dance is clearest evidence: half his kingdom?
4. Romans 8:6 carnally-minded is death.
5. Is goal of life pleasure (hedonism)? "Happiness" Instant gratification?

II. **The Revengeful One**

1. John had condemned the marriage of Herod and Herodias. She waited for her moment of revenge, to "get even."
2. We can be guilty of this, not in quantity, but kind. Usually it hurts the vengeful more than the perceived one whom it's against. It can eat out the heart.
3. Roman's 12:19 "Vengeance is mine, I will repay," says the Lord.
4. "The Bravados"
5. Put it behind you. Can turn whole world negative, robs us of energy and service.

III. **The Used One**

1. Salome, daughter of Herodias by earlier husband Philip, used here by ruthless, heartless mother for her own ends.
2. Her dance? Amazing, improper, disgusting, only for prostitutes.
3. Ephesians 5:11 "Have no fellowship with unfruitful works of darkness; reprove them."
4. I Timothy 5:22 "Neither be a partaker of another man's sin."
5. She danced. Galatians 5:19-21 has revelings and lasciviousness which condemn dancing.
6. Girls and everyone else, don't be used!

IV. **The Silent Crowd**

1. The others at the dance liked it, listened to the oaths, didn't say anything, but had a huge influence on the results. Herod did it "For the sake of them that sat at meat with him." (14:9)
2. Romans 12:1-2 Be not conformed to world but transformed.
3. Psychological principle: In a crowd, we are less likely to help.
4. In crowd: safety, security. To venture out to support good not easy
5. Me in theater. Stand up for Jesus.
6. What if one or more had objected to Herod?

V. **The Good One**

1. This is last episode in John The Baptist's life. Once this giant of faith had huge crowds come to him in desert (Mark 1:5); now he dies probably alone in a dark, dirty cell.
2. His strong uncompromising courage and conviction lead to his death. Did he fail?
3. Might wish could promise if stand for truth you end up like: Joseph, Daniel, Esther, Pentecost and Peter, Paul in Ephesus. But I can't. For righteousness may be like Jesus and others.
4. Luke 14:28 We must count the cost.

Conclusion: Where do we fit?

