



# Rumors, Regrets, & Resurrection

WK 58 Mt. 14:1-12

**WARM UP:** *What was your most memorable birthday? What made it so memorable; the presents, the place, or the people? Is it one that you look back on with fondness or one you look back on and wish you could forget?*

If you are like me, most of your birthdays have come and gone without much fanfare or reasons to remember. It was just another day but there are those special ones that we most certainly won't forget but wish we could. If there was anyone who understood this, it would have been King Herod Antipas and it was his birthday he would never forget even though he wished that he could.

What makes the story seem strangely out of place is there doesn't seem to be an obvious connection between it and Jesus. And the majority of the stories in the gospels are focused on Jesus and not other people. So, why does Matthew include this story in his gospel? What purpose does it serve and what should we learn from it?

## **READ ABOUT IT: Matt. 14:1-12**

1. *What is Herod's reaction to the reports of Jesus' ministry and miracles? What does he believe and why?*
2. *Why did Herod fear John the Baptist and Jesus?*
3. *Why does Herod have John beheaded? What does this say about Herod's character, his wife's, and his dinner guests?*
4. *At that moment, what does Herod seem to fear most: The person of John? The opinions of the people? Losing face with his dinner guests? His wife?*
5. *Later on, what does Herod seem to regret most? What fears are still alive and well and ruling over Him?*
6. *Have you ever done something you didn't want to do or knew was wrong simply because you were afraid of what others would think?*
7. *What past decisions do you regret most today?*
8. *In what areas of your life are your actions governed by fear of what others think?*
9. *When Jesus' commands and teachings conflict with your wants and desires, who usually wins?*