**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr October 8, 2023**

**A Wicked Birthday Celebration**

Matthew 14:1-13

**Key Truth:** Speaking the truth can have dire consequences. However, we must speak the truth, even when it’s not popular or convenient.

1. **A Wicked King -** Herod Antipas allowed his untamed lust

 and cowardice behavior to seal his fate.

 A. Herod is driven by guilt, lust, fear, and pride. Mark 6:19-20

2. **A Horrible Mother** - Herodias hated that John exposed her

 wickedness and unlawful marriage.

 A. Her hate for John blinded her to what evil she was

 influencing her to commit.

3. **A Misguided Daughter** – To please her mom, she was

 manipulated into asking for an innocent’s man life.

4. **A Good Man** - John The Baptist told Herod Antipas the truth

 and paid for it with his life.

 A. John was a man of character, conviction, and courage.

**What We Can Learn From The Life And Death Of John:**

1. Speaking the truth in love doesn’t mean love will be

 reciprocated.

2. Standing for righteousness will not gain you acceptance by

 the world.

3. Faith in God doesn’t promise an easy life nor a pain free

 death. Hebrews 11:35-38

4. When righteousness seems to lose, just remember the

 resurrection of Jesus.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Thank God for all the ways and people He uses to draw you to Himself. Never compromise your faith but stand for truth no matter the cost.

**Connection Group Homework:**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

When it comes to parents and their children, when is fear a good thing? When is it bad?

When it comes to your relationship with God, when is fear a good thing? When is it bad?

Can you think of a time when guilt played a role in the way you related to another person? How did that affect the relationship?

Read Matthew 14:6-12: How did Herod’s earthly relationships impact his response to God? Could the story have gone differently had he surrounded himself with God-fearing people? How so?

Read Psalm 1:1-3: How have earthly relationships played a role in the way you respond to Jesus, either negatively or positively?

Read 2 Samuel 12:13: How was Kind David’s response different from King Herod when confronted with his sin? What does it say about both men’s heart?

Read Proverbs 28:13-14: How have you responded when confronted with sin?