



# New Life Christian Community

Join Us As We  
Celebrate Only Jesus

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Cor 5:17

Sunday, September 14, 2025  
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## Pastoral Pondering

### When Doing Evil Is The Only Option

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where it seemed there was only one possible course of action and you knew that course of action was wrong, sinful, or even downright evil? You are not alone in that experience. Herod Agrippa had a complicated relationship with John the Baptist. **Mark 6:14-28** describes the tragic day of Herod's birthday party: his wife's daughter danced; Herod made a rash promise; the girl responded to the promise; and finally, John was tragically killed. There is a lot to unpack in this passage, but I would like to focus on just one element. Interestingly, while this element is very important, it does not appear in the text at all! To address a matter that is not in the text seems foolish as an "addition" to the scriptural account. Yet it will become obvious that the element is very important, and reveals something about Herod Agrippa and others, including you and me.

Herod had taken Herodias, his brother Phillip's wife, as his wife. John the Baptist boldly challenged him over this adulterous action, so Herodias wanted the innocent man of God dead (v. 19). Herod feared John but at the same time enjoyed conversations with him (v. 20). This kept John alive. For a time.

A birthday party for Herod produced an opportunity that Herodias would use to do away with John. Her daughter danced before Herod and his party guests, and all were profoundly impressed. Herod's pleasure in the dance was so great that he made a rash vow: he would give the girl anything she asked for. Mark includes the full text of the promise to emphasize the extent of it:

*Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it to you. And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom" (vv. 22b, 23.)*

It was a "blank check" that would thrill the heart of any young person. What would she ask for? Half of the kingdom? A million dollars? A handsome and wealthy husband? The girl was so overwhelmed by the immensity of the possibilities that she asked her mother for advice. Her mother simply expressed *her* own heart's desire: **"The head of John the Baptist."** (v 24b) The girl returned to Herod with the request.

Herod's response should chill us to the core of our being:

*And the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her (v. 26.)*

The missing element in this story is found in the fact that Herod did not consider the *obvious choice* which he *should* have made. He should have said something like, "Honey, you should know that's *not* what I had in mind with my promise. Think of something you know I can and will do. How about your own chariot and horses to go with it?" But Herod did not do that because "a promise is a promise" and because he feared what his guests would think if he failed to keep his vow. He fell victim to the fear of man.

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## Pastoral Pondering

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*The fear of man lays a snare, but  
whoever trusts in the LORD is safe.*  
(Proverbs 29:25)

Herod fell victim to the snare. He thought he had locked himself into this promise he made because of what his guests would think. He had failed to anticipate that the girl might make a foolish request. His rash promise forced him into a situation that caused him not to consider the obvious option of doing what was right. He failed to be a man of integrity. The result was his responsibility for the death of a man sent by God. Herod missed doing the right thing.

This is the very situation we sometimes find ourselves in. We rashly contemplate doing something sinful, and what we *should* have done never occurs to us until it is too late.

When we find ourselves in what seems to be an impossible situation, we need to draw upon the wisdom and direction of God to do what is right rather than what is expedient—especially if it seems there is only one evil option. To do what is right, we need to be faithfully immersed in God's word daily and living a life that is obedient to His word.

The pressures we put upon ourselves and the opinions of people around us are not good guides and they do not lead to wisdom or pleasing God.

Jay Swisher

*welcome*

If you are a visitor this morning or have only been coming to New Life for a few months, we are glad you are joining with us! If you would like to learn more about New Life, be sure to stop by the Resource Center in the front foyer to pick up a welcome bag we have for you. Please join us for fellowship *and a meal* after service today where we would love to meet and get to know you and for you to get to know us more.

**nlcc**  
resourcecenter

If you haven't visited the Resource Center lately, we have quite a few wonderful books, especially for kids (but not just for them)! Also, take a look at the wide selection of books in the Mission section. Our shelves hold so many great books to help you grow in your knowledge of and love for God and to help guide you in your daily walk with Him. Perhaps you'll find a book to read with a friend or form a book group with! Come check us out after service today.

## MINISTRY DIRECTORY

### **Building & Grounds Ministry**

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### **Sunday Meal Services**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *Pastoral Eldership Team:*

Pastor Tony Minell	715.417.1982 galatiansii20@yahoo.com
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Rene Milner	715.557.0185
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Jay Swisher	763.587.3472

### *This Week's Scheduled Events:*

Tues	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Thurs	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– 10:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– Noon
Thurs	GriefShare– 6:30 pm
Thurs	Women's Bible Study– 6:30 pm
Thurs	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 pm

### *September Memory Verse:*

Psalms 42:11 (ESV)

*"Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him my salvation and my God."*

### *September Fellowship Tip:*

Take a moment this week and reach out to one of our missionaries. You and/or your family would be such a blessing by just sending an email, card, making a phone call, or a video chat. Take a look at our missions board for more information.

### *Sunday Meals and Fellowship:*

Sep 14	Meal Team 8 ~Soup
Sep 21	Meal Team 1 ~Pizza

**Contact Barbara Judkins if interested in being on a meal team or a helper.**

Check Out New Life Online  
newlifechristiancommunity.org

- **Women's Study:** Women's Thursday night Bible study is **starting up again Thursday, September 18** for a 13-week book study called ***Trusting God*** by Jerry Bridges. We meet at **6:30 pm**. Look for a signup sheet and a sample copy of the book in the lobby. Cost is \$10. Any questions, please call Colleen Firkus at 612-889-7581, or email [c.a.firkus@gmail.com](mailto:c.a.firkus@gmail.com).
- **Young Adults Gathering at Wood Lake:** Reminder to register for Wood Lake! Inviting parents and those wanting to invest in the younger generation, to join us with the young adults for a night and day out at Wood Lake in Grantsburg WI on **Friday evening September 26th through Saturday afternoon the 27th**. Looking forward to spending unrushed time together studying the Word, worshiping our Lord, growing in relationship together and encouraging one another to look to Jesus more and more. Cost is \$64 per person for all the meals and a night in the cabins. **Registration is online.** Just go the New Life Website and click on the menu option ***"Young Adults September Wood Lake Camp."*** If you have any questions just reach out to Pastor Paul.
- **Immerse:** Reminder that our Wednesday night discipleship classes have been pushed back from starting in September to now **starting Wednesday, October 1st**. Thank you to all who signed up to help teach classes, we now have sufficient help! One other need is that we are looking for an individual or couple to prayerfully consider coordinating this ministry in the future. Questions just reach out to Pastor Paul.
- **Young Ladies Study:** We are planning to continue the Young Ladies study that we began this summer. This time going through a study together called ***Becoming a Woman of Freedom*** based on **Hebrews 12:1-2. "Lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith". If you would like to join us, please let me know in the next couple days so I can get books ordered. At this point we will plan to **meet the opposite Tuesdays of Young Adults**. Please feel free to call or text with any questions or to let me know you would like a book. Eager to study with you! Katie Severson 715-417-1595 .**





# Jesus

According to Samuel

## *Today's Passage:*

Pastor Tony's message is from the  
Old Testament book,  
*2 Samuel 24:1-10*

## *Sermon Notes:*