

Matthew 13:53-14:12

“The Kingdom and Rejection”

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Jesus is our King and the Calling Realm: Prepare the next generation to thrive in Christ. Train your children in Christ. Volunteer for kids' or youth ministry. Serve at the Bridge youth center. Mentor a teen.

Intro. Warning labels: there are some that we pay no attention to. For example a coffee cup that warns the contents are hot – I hope so. Sometimes we push the warning boundary (e.g. 25 MPH curve). Sometimes we ignore the warning and experience consequences (Wash only in cold water or it will shrink). Sometimes we respect the warning because we understand the risk (e.g. Don't walk on thin ice over cold lake). (bz re bike on treadmill in garage). **What are some of the reasons why people reject warnings?** Today we'll discover the benefits of heeding the warnings

Subject: Jesus and John the Baptist rejected

Object: Repent, believe, and grow in Christ

A. Jesus rejected at Nazareth [13:53-58]

1. Jesus' divinity and humanity cause people to struggle to reconcile [53-56]

⁵³ Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these parables, that He departed from there. ⁵⁴ When He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, “Where did this *Man* get this wisdom and *these* mighty works? ⁵⁵ Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? ⁵⁶ And His sisters, are they not all with us? After teaching the parables at Capernaum, his base of operation at the Galilee, Jesus returns to his hometown Nazareth [53]. He had been previously rejected at Nazareth at the beginning of His earthly ministry [Lu. 4:16-31]. He began to teach in the synagogue [54] presumably the same synagogue that He worshiped at as a boy and young man. The people marveled at His **wisdom** (teaching) and **these mighty works** (authority and miracles) [54]. They see Jesus as **the carpenter's son** (Joseph's), and the **son of Mary** [54] (not the Son of God). His four brothers and sisters still lived in the village [55-56].

2. Jesus reveals prejudices towards Him [56-57]

Where then did this *Man* get all these things? [56] They see Jesus as a common son of a common poor family. They also see Him perform miracles, and hear Him teach as no other had taught before. They are unable to overcome their prejudices towards Jesus **so they were offended at Him [57]:** stumbled to believe in Him as Messiah. **But Jesus said to them, “A**

prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house” [57].

Jesus observes that only in his hometown or house is a prophet not honored.

3. Jesus did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief [58] Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

a. Their unbelief kept them from experiencing the fullness of God’s blessings

b. Jesus marveled at their lack of faith [Mk. 6:5]

i. Their familiarity with Jesus should have produced wonder and worship not contempt

c. Familiarity with Jesus yields repentance, increased faith, and spiritual growth

d. Jesus did not perform many miracles there, and this was His last visit to Nazareth.

i. There comes a point where God will stop striving with us, and will yield to our desire to reject Him [Gen. 6:3].

How can unbelief keep us from experiencing the fullness of God’s blessings?

Danger #1 Because of our unbelief we don’t experience all God wants to do in our lives.

B. John the Baptist rejected by Herod [14:1-12] John the Baptist Beheaded

1. Conviction of sin can bring you closer to Christ if you yield [1-2]

At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the report about Jesus ² and said to his servants, “This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him.” Herod heard about Jesus and concluded it was John the Baptist raised from the dead [1-2]. This is Herod Antipas (4BC to 39AD) the son of Herod the Great [Mt. 2] who ruled the Galilee and Perea (Jordan). He loved luxury and immorality. Herod felt guilty for the murder of John (recounted v.3-12).

a. Conviction of sin by God’s Spirit can be a blessing if you repent.

2. John confronted Herod about his sin and called him to repent [3-5] For Herod had laid hold of John and bound him, and put *him* in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife. ⁴ Because John had said to him, “It is not lawful for you to have her.” ⁵ And although he wanted to put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet.

Herod imprisoned John [3-4] because John repeatedly rebuked Herod’s adultery (verb tense v.4). Herod divorced his wife to marry his half-brother’s wife (i.e. Sister-in-law). To please his new wife, Herod imprisoned John [3]. Herod even wanted to kill John, but feared a riot because the people recognized John as a prophet [5]. Herod was wicked and weak, but his wife Herodias was wicked and ruthless (Cf. Ahab and Jezebel).

a. John was noble and courageous in confronting the king and calling him to repent

* Problems of pride and refusal to stop a lifestyle of sin cause us to want to be king rather than submit to the King of kings.

3. When confronted do we rebel, reject, reflect, or receive and repent [6-12]? But when Herod’s birthday was celebrated, the daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herod. ⁷ Therefore he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask. ⁸ So she, having been prompted by her mother, said, “Give me John the Baptist’s head here on a platter.” At Herod’s birthday feast, Herod’s stepdaughter (Salome who was @16) was summoned to dance – probably a sensual dance. A royal princess would be

shamed as a lowly dancing girl so Herod promised her whatever she wanted if she danced [7]. Herodias tells her daughter to ask for the head of John the Baptist on a platter [8].

a. Herodias is angry about being confronted and in effect murders John

i. She rebels against God and God's morality and refuses to repent

And the king was sorry; nevertheless, because of the oaths and because of those who sat with him, he commanded *it* to be given to *her*. ¹⁰ **So he sent and had John beheaded in prison.** ¹¹ **And his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought *it* to her mother.** Herod was **sorry** [9] (i.e. distressed or grieved) but did not want to lose face in front of guests and granted the request [9]. John was beheaded and his head brought the girl and then her mother [10-11].

b. Herod was sorry, but did not repent from doing wrong.

i. Sorrow or guilt is not the same as repenting submitting to God

ii. Herod repeatedly visited John in prison, and was urged to repent [**Mk. 6:20**]

iii. Sin escalates where there is no repentance, and brings for the death [**Ja. 1:15**]

Then his disciples came and took away the body and buried it, and went and told Jesus [12] John's disciples provided a proper burial. John was Jesus cousin. It is good to come and talk to Jesus especially when troubled or in despair.

* Guy at Starbucks, "What are you reading?" I say, "the Bible" and he says, "I see that." So I say, "the Gospel of Matthew." He says, "What's the message?" And I reply, "The danger of rejecting Jesus." And he says, "Well maybe that mattered 2000 years ago." Cf. There is a very present danger of rejecting Jesus.

Danger#2 Ultimately judgment of God and eternal separation

Conc. Repent, believe, and grow in Christ