

Sermon based Discussion

Matthew 14:1-12

'I Love it and I Hate it at the Same Time.'

3/3/24

The weekly qualifier:

These questions are not meant to be answered exhaustively. The aim is to foster further discussion on God's Word which is rich, full, and inexhaustible. If you only get through one question, yet the conversation is robust and warming to your soul, well done!

1. Loving and hating sin can be a hard category for us to admit in the Christian life, why do you think that is the case? Are there ways it is unhelpful for us to admit this? How might it spur on faithfulness and be an encouragement to others?
2. John the Baptizer lost his head when speaking contrary to the culture around him, we can praise God that unlike much of the world and history, we do not face death like that. However, what are some ways God's Word does speak against the culture and government as we see it in our day? What realistic consequences could there be for speaking God's Word?
3. During the sermon we covered some of the dysfunction of Herod's family life. How does our family influence what we think to be normal? How might have Herod's decisions and life been different if he celebrated God's design of the family? Can you think of an area of your family life that needs growth?
4. What can we learn from John the Baptizer and his hatred of sin? What can we gather from Herod's own wrestle and hatred of sin? How should this shape the way we engage with sinful people around us and even ourselves?
5. As a group, look back through the parables of Matthew 13, how do you see Herod and John represented in them?
6. How can our love/hate relationship with sin be different in Christ? What does freedom in the death and resurrection of Jesus mean? What passages of promise come to mind when you think about a new life?
7. Read Romans 8, the entire chapter, together as a group. Share what God has shown you.