

Matthew 14:1-21
Two Banquets: God's feast and Herod's feast.

- I. Herod Antipas: terrified by a guilty conscience.
 - A. The public man and the private man [v. 2, v. 7]
 - B. True guilt for Herod's conscience.
 - C. Fear and guilt wrestle with pride and power.

- II. Two banquets: one hosted in pride the other hosted in mercy.
 - A. The royal birthday party: wine, women and the power of man.
 - B. The holy picnic: bread, fish, the power of God.
 - C. It's not the food nor the occasion, but the host that defines the purpose of the banquet.

- III. The puzzling turns of life in a fallen world.
 - A. Herod and Herodias ended their lives in exile.
 - B. John the Baptist ended his life in Herod's dungeon.
 - C. Jesus lived his life surrounded by people who were either puzzled or hostile and ended his life nailed to the cross.

- IV. The solitude of Christ.
 - A. Alone righteous in a corrupt world.
 - B. Alone conscious of the weight of responsibility upon him.
 - C. Alone always able to bring comfort and help to needy people.
 - D. Who is Jesus?
Who do you say that he is?