

A TALE OF TWO KINGS

MATTHEW 14:1-13

This is God's universal purpose for all Christian suffering: more contentment in God and less satisfaction in the world.

-John Piper

I. A Picture of Rejection

II. A Picture of Righteousness

Getting to Know You:

1. What is the strangest present you ever received?

Into the Bible:

2. Herod was an illegitimate ruler over the Jews, installed and kept in power by the Roman authority. In Deuteronomy 17:14-20 God laid out the characteristics that would be necessary in a king over His people Israel. The Old Testament is full of the stories of kings who failed to live up to these standards. Although Christ was king over a “kingdom not of this world”, how do the characteristics in the Deuteronomy passage find fulfillment in Him?

Application:

3. John the Baptist's boldness in confronting Herod got him imprisoned and eventually beheaded. Other Bible characters who spoke truth to those in power include the prophet Nathan before David (II Samuel 12), the three Hebrews before Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 3) and Paul before Felix and Agrippa (Acts 26). Each of them did so at great risk to themselves for doing so. What should give us the confidence to speak truth with boldness when doing so is intimidating and puts us at risk? Matthew 10:28, Psalm 118:16, Luke 12:11-12.

For Families:

4. Talk with your children about God's promises to us when we are afraid.