

You Give Them Something

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-4 Andrew: Military Ministry. Women of Encouragement. Thrive.
- B. Slide5 Sun Night pray: Next Sun, 6:30-7:30pm.

II. Slide6 Intro: You Give Them Something

- A. We now move into *a new & import section* of Mt, *The Retirement of the King*. chps.14-20.¹
 - 1. Jesus now *withdraws* from the multitudes & spends time *alone* w/His disciples, *preparing them* for the coming crisis in Jerusalem (the cross).
 - 2. Remember even the disciples thought in terms of *an earthly kingdom*.
 - 3. It was necessary that He prepare them for this faith-testing experience. The 2 events in this 1/2 a chapter illustrate the characteristics of *our present age*, when the King is rejected:
 - a) *Christ's servants will suffer and die for Him*. Persecution
 - b) *Christ's servants will minister the bread of life to man*. Provision
- B. Slide7 Zombie Apocalypse. The Walking Dead. Night of the Living Dead. The Dawn of the Dead. *Zombie Jesus?* That's what *Herod* thought...*Read vs.1,2*.
 - 1. A zombie, from Haitian Creole *zombi*. Zombism is really about a virus or disease that infiltrates someone's body which kills him/her. The person is then *reanimated* as a zombie. Other humans are then infected by a bite or a virus which then turns that person into a zombie, *thus* perpetuating the cycle. A zombie then is, *"a dead person's body, reanimated but continuing the process of decay. A zombie is considered undead rather than fully alive."*
- C. Now Zech.14:12 does say *Their people will become like walking corpses, their flesh rotting away. Their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths*. But...despite pastor Dan's interpretation of this... :)
 - 1. *Clarification: So no Herod, Jesus was not a Zombie - Zombies are reanimated and are in the process of putrefaction. John is present in heaven w/His Lord.*

¹ Wiersbe's Expository Outlines of the NT, Mt.

Jesus will eventually be resurrected fully back to life w/a fully functioning body.

III. Slide8 HEROD VS. JOHN (1-12)

- A. Slide9 (1) Herod Antipas - Herod The Great, 3 sons, 4 areas (tetrarch). Antipas gets Galilee/ Peraea. Tiberius is where Antipas lived & ruled.
1. So, this Herod eloped w/Herodias, the wife of his 1/2 brother Philip I, divorcing his own wife & sending her back to her father, the king of Petra (Aretas).
- B. Slide10 (2) I see ghosts or zombies - JOHN was written on this tyrants memory.
1. Do you have any ghosts in your past? Any skeletons in your closet?
 2. God sent many voices to warn Herod. Especially the voice of Conscience & the voice of a Prophet.
 - a) What other voices can we hear? God, Satan, conscience, friends, enemies, the world.
- C. Conscience - The voice of Conscience can be a powerful voice. It can also be silenced.
1. Herod decided instead to listen to the voice of cowardice & plunged himself into terrible sin.
- D. (3-5) The Prophet John was another voice that warned him & boldly warned him to repent. Herod laid hold on John, because John's word laid hold on Herod.
- E. Slide11a Let's note these 3 things... sorry, nevertheless, he commanded it.
- F. (9) The King was sorry - It's also said a crocodile shed's tears over those it snaps in two.
1. Poor puppet king...He basically put a close pin on his Conscience.
 - a) He was remorseful over the situation but not repentant over sin.
 2. (FBMeyer) To tamper w/conscience is like killing the watchdog while the burglar is breaking in.
- G. (9b) Nevertheless - How easily influenced.
1. Influenced by his: cunning concubine, his dancing daughter, his careless covenant, & his beer-drinking buddies.
 - a) Afraid of the jeers, Herod are you too religious to put away a Prophet?
 - (1) The fear of being thought weak, proved that he was weak indeed.

2. **Who influences you?** Actually, every friend influences you for the good or the bad. How do each of your friends influence you?
- H. (9c) **He commanded it** - (Spurg) *With the regret a wolf has because he must eat the lamb, he gave orders for the murder of John.*
1. Wicked Oaths ought to be **repented** of, **not acted** out.
 2. **In the sight of heaven it was Herod who perished not John.**
- I. **Slide11b** (10) **No miracles** were brought about for John's deliverance. *Never be shocked that good christians die.*
1. So our friend John left his **prison** for **paradise**, by 1 sudden strike of the sword. *Which still happens today in the persecution of Christians around our world.*
- J. (11) **What a mother & daughter combo.**
1. I wonder if when **Herodias** looked at Johns' face on that platter, if it was still **Slide12** silently screaming...*It's not lawful for you to have him.*
- K. **At the end of most true story TV shows & movies, it tells what happened w/the key people: Herod: lost his prestige & power. His armies were defeated by the Arabs. His appeals to be made a real king (urged by his wife) were refused by Emperor Caligula. Herod was banished to Gaul (France) & then to Spain, where he died.**
- L. (12) **Notice:** They **buried it** not him. **The real John no man could bury.** (as w/you)
1. And Herod soon found out that being dead, **yet** he spoke.
- M. **Slide13,14 John** had taught **his disciples** well - *They went to Jesus at once!*

IV. **Slide15 HE MAKES ME LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES (13-21)**

- A. Jesus now **departs**. Several reasons for this withdrawing:²
1. **The report** of John's death. **The growing antagonism** of Herod. **The disciples' need for rest** after their preaching tour (Mrk.6:31). **His need to get alone with His disciples to teach them.**
- B. **Slide16 Illus:** **Do you remember what it was like to learn how to swing?** Learning how to pump. Feet extended toward the sky. Leaning way back. The spin maneuver. Timing the jump.

² Wiersbe's Expository Outlines of the NT, Mt.

1. Its one of the 1st places we learned to **trust**. It all depended **who** was pushing us. **If** it was someone we **trusted**, they could try anything with us & we'd shout, *Again! Again!* **But** if it was some kid on the playground, or some random cousin at a family get together...*oh man, sick feeling in your gut & hang on.*
2. **Slide17 Who pushes your swing?** In the **right hands**, you can find peace...**even** in the *twisty's* of life. **Even** in the *big pushes* where all u see is **sky**. You can **Trust Him**
 - a) This is what Jesus seeks to teach his disciples in this **life lesson**. **Trust Him**.
- C. The **why** to this story is given by Jesus in Mrk.6:34, *they were like sheep not having a shepherd*. Shepherd-less sheep; folks trying to make it on their own through life.
- D. When you come to the Scriptures are you looking stories of *personal growth*, or an understanding of the **character & nature** of God?
- E. What is God trying to communicate about **Himself**? The fact that He can feed a bunch of people? That Jesus is greater than His disciples?
 1. **What's the underlying message? Is there one?** Jn.6:22; 26,27; 33-35
 - a) So, the miracle was a symbol of our Lord's **higher** spiritual work. **Trust Him...for everything**.
- F. **Slide18 Their Rest** (13) - **Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while**.
 1. **By Himself** - **i.e.** not w/the crowds, **but** w/his small group.
 2. Every **weary** Christian worker needs to hear those words by Christ.
 - a) *It is important that we get alone from time to time to hear God's voice and refresh ourselves physically and mentally.*
 - b) "If we don't come apart and rest - we'll come apart." Vance Havner.
 3. "We need times when we smooth out the **wrinkles of our soul**, get alone w/ God, refresh our bodies, **& then** get ready to serve the Lord again."
 4. A rest is much needed...**but** is not to be. [**sometimes** you just HAVE to disconnect; **other times**, He'll give you that extra measure of grace/strength]
- G. **Slide19 Their Interrupted Rest** (14) [**note slide: whole rest/semēbrēv. 64th hemidemisemiquaver**]
 1. Eager to be w/Christ they ran around the Northern shoreline.
- H. Instead of resenting their **interruption**, He was gripped w/**compassion**.

1. **Slide20a** He **wasn't** moved w/**complaining**. *"This is my day off, This is my time."*
 - a) That phone call, that knock on the door. The flesh screams, *Not right now Lord, you know I'm busy, or resting.*
 - b) **Slide20b** He was **moved** w/**Compassion** = *have one's inner-being stirred.* **compassion + action**
 - c) **Found 8 times in the N.T.** - **All refer to Jesus.** When He saw the needy mult. Twice when he saw the hungry crowds. Saw the 2 blind men, Leper, widow at Nain. Was used in 3 parables.
2. **How do you react when your plans are unexpectedly spoilt?**
3. **Jesus saw this crowd not as a mob, but as individuals.**
 - a) Individuals who *looked like sheep w/o a shepherd. Who needed healings. Who needed teachings* (Mrk.6:34). *Who needed food.*
4. **Do you know anyone that needs shepherding, a healing, or food?**
 - a) **How can we help them find the Good Shepherd?**
- I. **Their Challenge** (15-21)
- J. The only miracle found in all 4 gospels (except for the Res). Most **public** of all the miracles.
- K. (15) *Here they remind Jesus it was a deserted place. (There wasn't a Jamba Juice, Chick-fil-A, Chipotle, or McDavids...not even a Starbucks for miles)*
- L. **Slide21a** **Send them away** - Never send someone away who is **hungry** [Sp, Emotionally, or Phys]
- M. (16) Jesus will give us *seemingly impossible challenges...you give them something to eat.*
 1. May this be written on every church, & every believing heart, *We have the Slide21b bread that satisfies!!!...you give them something to eat!*
- N. **Slide22** (17) **5 loaves, 2 fish** - A meal that might feed two people. Bread and fish were the staples of a Galilean peasant diet.
- O. (19) **Blessed/He gave thanks** NIV - Jesus thanks God for providing the food.
 1. **Slide23** The sequence of verbs (**blessed/give thanks, broke, gave**) occurs again in Matt 26:26, which may hint that it represented *a traditional blessing.*
 2. *Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, Take, eat; this is My body.*
- P. **Blessed & broke** – **We are not manufacturers, we are only distributors.** (the miracle took place in Jesus hands, **not** theirs)

- Q. (20) Jesus didn't only **feed** the 5000, **but** he **taught** the 12. He sent them home w/a doggie-bag reminder. [maybe Jesus has em carry the big basket all the way home so they don't forget this lesson]
1. **Twelve baskets full** - 1 per disciple. In the OT, God fed His people with manna, **but** there were no edible leftovers.
- R. (Mrk.6:37) Shall we go & buy 200 denarii worth of bread & give them something to eat?
1. Leave **Jesus** out of your calculations & you'll come up **short** every time.
 2. Oh, they were **keenly aware of the need**, **but powerless** to meet it.
 - a) Standing before them was the One who created the Heavens & the earth. **One who had all power**. So, the 1st step is not to measure **our resources**, **but** to **determine God's will & trust Him** to meet the need.
- S. (Mrk.6:39) **Green Grass** – Just to show you how detailed Scripture is...in John 6:4 he mentions it is right before **Passover** (i.e. spring time) the only time of year of green grass.
1. **Here he makes them to lie down in green pastures**. Ps.23:2
- T. **Slide24** (Mrk.6:40) **Sat down in ranks** – (lit. πρασια) A garden bed. Refers to the arrangement in rows, like a well-kept flower bed. It often was customary for the students of the rabbis to sit in rows which were compared to the rows of vines in the vineyard or to well-ordered gardens.³ - They must have looked literally like **flower beds**.
- U. **Slide25** Let's remember, instead of telling Jesus what to do (15) let Him bring you back into a place of service as waiters.
- V. Jesus gave them something **impossible** or **preposterous** to do *in their own strength*.
1. When Jesus gives us a **command**...**He enables us**.
 2. Oh, that we might **face up to our own inadequacy**, & learn that Jesus is able to **cope w/any crisis**.
 3. Oh, that we might learn again **total dependence** upon Him.
- W. **John 6** makes it clear that the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 was a *sermon in action*.
1. Christ, through His Word, is **the Bread of Life** on whom we feed. It is the privilege - and responsibility - of His **servants** to give this bread to the hungry multitudes. *The servants receive that bread personally from Christ, then pass it on to others.*

³ Linguistic Key to the Greek N.T., pg.105

X. Slide26 Lessons from this miracle:

1. Christ can take our **little** and make it **much**. [Moses' stick. David's rock. Elijah's mantle/cloak. Widows jar/oil. Samson's *donkey* jawbone. A lil lad's lunch... Your monthly missionary support check. Your prayer. Your individual tithe. Your prep time for your SS class] *Our means, His power.*
2. Slide27-29 Whatever He *blesses*, He **breaks**. Are we willing to be **broken**?
3. People today are in a **desert place of sin** (15) and need Christ.
4. Christ can overcome every difficulty and feed the multitudes. The disciples had many excuses - *not enough \$, the wrong place, the wrong time* - **but** Christ took what they had and met the need. He will do this today.

Y. As Jesus this week made them to *lie down in green pastures*, **next week** He will *lead them beside still waters* (walks on sea) **& then** will *restore some souls* (healings).