

## Faith on the Roller Coaster

*When Evil Wins*

May 17, 2009

### Matthew 14:1-12

<sup>1</sup> At that time Herod the tetrarch heard about the fame of Jesus, <sup>2</sup> and he said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist. He has been raised from the dead; that is why these miraculous powers are at work in him." <sup>3</sup> For Herod had seized John and bound him and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, <sup>4</sup> because John had been saying to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her." <sup>5</sup> And though he wanted to put him to death, he feared the people, because they held him to be a prophet. <sup>6</sup> But when Herod's birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced before the company and pleased Herod, <sup>7</sup> so that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask. <sup>8</sup> Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me the head of John the Baptist here on a platter." <sup>9</sup> And the king was sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he commanded it to be given. <sup>10</sup> He sent and had John beheaded in the prison, <sup>11</sup> and his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother. <sup>12</sup> And his disciples came and took the body and buried it, and they went and told Jesus.

## Discussion Questions

Have you ever read a book, seen a movie, or heard a story in which the bad guy wins?

How do those stories leave you feeling?

Does this story of the 'triumph of evil' in the Bible surprise you? Why or why not?

What does it tell us that Herod and Herodias are able to kill an innocent man, a servant of God?

What does it tell us that a servant of God was killed for standing up for God's truth?

Is evil still at work today?

How does it work?

Why does it matter if we know how to recognize evil?

What is the last thing we see John's disciples do in this story?

Why do they do it?

Does it teach us anything about the times we're at the 'bottom' of the roller coaster of life?