

Herod's Banquet
Matthew 14:1-12

Review:

1. The wealthy and powerful have never had much use for Biblical standards of holiness
2. Many imagine that we can seek happiness by tolerating or encouraging sin in our lives
3. Sowing to the flesh leads only to death, while sowing to the Spirit leads to eternal life

Reflect:

1. Is there anyone or anything to which you are looking for happiness that isn't in agreement with God's Word? What changes do you need to make to follow Christ more consistently?

Go further: Read Galatians 5:22-6:10

1. According to verses 22 and 23, what are the nine characteristics of the fruit that the Holy Spirit bears in a Christian's life?
2. What does verse 24 say that those who belong to Jesus have done?
3. In verse 25, how does Paul say we should live and walk?
4. What behaviors does verse 26 say are incompatible with living in the Spirit?
5. How does verse 1 say we should treat a fellow Christian who has fallen into sin?
6. Why does Paul say all Christians should consider ourselves, or keep watch on ourselves?
7. How does verse 2 say that we should fulfill the law of Christ?
8. In verse 3, how does Paul say we can deceive ourselves? How did Herod do this in our passage from Matthew 14?
9. What does verse 4 say is a good way for us to avoid such self-deception?
10. Comparing verses 2 and 5, what different points do you think Paul is making, first about our temptations and second about the things in which we might take pride?
11. In verse 6, with whom does Paul say we should share good things?
12. In verse 7, what does Paul insist that everyone will reap? Why would denying this truth be a mockery to God?
13. In verse 8, what does Paul promise that someone who sows to the flesh will reap?
14. What will someone reap who sows to the Spirit?
15. In verse 9, what does Paul encourage us not to allow to happen while we are trying to do good?
16. What does he promise we will be able to do eventually, or in due season?
17. In verse 10, what does Paul urge us to do whenever we have the opportunity?

Summary and Application:

1. What aspects of the fruit of the Spirit do you wish your life displayed more consistently?
2. How did Jesus model for us the things Paul encourages all Christians to do in verses 1 and 2?
3. How have you sowed to the flesh in your life? How can you more consistently sow to the Spirit?