

Sermon Reflections

Love and Rejection (Matthew 14:1-12)

Summary: Reject your sin and your love of it. Don't reject Christ in unbelief.

Introduction: 1. What do you do when you are told that what you want is impossible to attain?
(Give three possible responses.)
2. What is your response to the fact that it is impossible to love both sin and Christ?

Matthew 13:1-12 reveals five signs that you are in love with your sin:

1. You feel very guilty and afraid (vv. 1-2)

- How did Herod's reaction to the news of Jesus reflect his guilt and fear?
- What are some possible responses to guilt and fear?
- What is the proper response to guilt and fear we feel for our sin?

2. You know God disapproves and you do nothing (vv. 3-4)

- Why did Herod feel guilty despite the fact that he was the governmental authority and had to answer to no one?
- What does this suggest concerning our religious vs. legal obligations?
- If I ignore God's disapproval, what does this imply?
- Explain the difference between a Christian who sins and a non-Christian sinner.

3. You fear people more than God (v. 5)

- What was the dilemma faced by Herod found in verses five and nine?
- How does one's fear of God resolve the conflict one might have in regard to what others might think?

4. You obey sinful desires (vv. 6-7)

- How does love of sin reflect one's love of self? How did Herod's sin of pride lead to other sin?
- Is it possible to follow sinful desires even if you hate sin?

5. You wish to silence conviction (vv. 8.12)

- Did the killing of John the Baptist's silence Herod's conviction of sin?
- How do you try to silence conviction of sin in your own life?

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT:

- Mark 6:19-20 tells us that Herod feared John the Baptist yet heard him gladly. Why would Herod want to listen to John the Baptist?
- How did Herod's history affect his response to Jesus when he finally met him? (Luke 23)
- How can the sin of one family member affect the whole family?
- Do sinners always feel guilt or fear because of their sin? Explain.