

- D. This scene isn't about boat rides.
- i. The messianic banquet continues through the gospel and is demonstrated in the Lord's table. It's intended to be a never-ending banquet!
 - ii. In order for this banquet to be served, we must be moved by compassion and not by fear.
- E. Gennesaret means "fruitful soil."

LIVE THE STORY

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- How does the text speak to Herod's motivations? What are they?
- What are some of the fears which attempt to control you? What about people you fear? Family members? Co-workers? Do you struggle with fearing how other's view you?
- How does our culture try to use fear to manipulate us?
- Have you caved to fears and made devastating decisions? Have you turned to Christ in repentance and received his merciful healing?
- How were Christ's motivations and Herod's antithetical? Which one's are often seen in earthly leaders today?
- What is it about Christ's banquet that may cause many not to attend it? Compare these two banquets in as many ways as you can.
- What does it mean to say that this last scene is not about boat rides? What is it about?
- How might fears keep us from serving the never-ending Messianic banquet of life?

Two Banquets and the Life of the World

Jerry Cisar — November 10, 2019

Text: Matthew 13:53—14:12

Introduction

I. A Palatial Banquet (14:1-12)

A. John is haunting Herod (1-5).

- i. John's protest against the immoral marriage is a constant, public reminder that there is instability in Herod's reign.
- ii. We might assume that people "in power" are in control when they are rather being controlled by their own fears.

B. Herod holds a banquet in his palace (6-12).

C. Behind the heinous actions of many people is great fear.

II. A Wilderness Banquet (14:13-21)

A. When Jesus heard, he heads off to be alone.

B. Herod was moved by fear; Jesus is moved by compassion.

i. Moved by compassion, Jesus brings life... healing.

ii. Fear results in a banquet of death; compassion in a banquet of life.

iii. One cannot be motivated by fear and compassion at the same time.

a) There is no fear in love; perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:18).

b) We cannot love others, and bring life, as long as we are motivated by fear.

C. Moved by compassion, Jesus serves up a banquet.

III. A Never-ending Banquet (14:22-36)

A. *"Isn't this the carpenter's son?" ... "Truly you are the Son of God!"*

B. Jesus comes strolling out to meet them.

i. If you want to see Jesus do amazing things, you have to get in the boat and do what He says.

ii. First Herod thinks Jesus is a ghost; now the disciples.

C. "If it is you, tell me to come to you on the water."

i. It can be read, "Since it is you, Lord..."

ii. It wasn't Jesus' idea for Peter to get out of the boat.

a) He could have stayed in the boat and worshiped Jesus all the same.

b) "Lord save me." That's the fear that keeps us from bringing life to the world. The fear of saving ourselves.

c) "Little-faith-one, why did you doubt?"

iii. The disciples in the boat were doing the will of Jesus as much as Peter! They were doing what Jesus said... even if in an ordinary way!