**Matthew**

*The Death of John the Baptist*

*Matthew 14:1 - 13*

Background

* John was likely in prison between 1 – 2 years.
* It is roughly one year from John’s death that Jesus will be crucified.

Impact of John’s Life

* He Fulfilled His God Given Ministry
  + The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (Is 40:3)
  + He said, I *am* the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias. (John 1:23)
* His Message Was Heard
  + Some Responded in Faith
    - Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. (Acts 19:4)
  + Some Feared, Though They Did Not Respond
    - And said unto his servants, This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead; and therefore mighty works do shew forth themselves in him. (Matt 14:2)
    - And when he would have put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet. (Matt 14:5)
  + Some Hated Him
* The Focus on Jesus Was Increased
  + 26 And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all *men* come to him. 27 John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. 28 Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. 29 He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. 30 He must increase, but I *must* decrease. (John 3:26-30)

John Will Be Specially Rewarded

* + Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. (Rev 2:10) – Church at Smyrna
  + Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. (James 1:12)

How Did Jesus Respond? (v 13)

* He Spent Private Time with the Lord
* He Continued On

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Raed is arriving THIS Wednesday
* Those who committed to give once Raed arrives, please begin giving.
* December 4th – official welcome of Raed and his family. Prepare to give him a Baptist handshake on that day.