

Matthew 14:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Herod's superstitious conclusion: 'This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead; and therefore mighty works do shew forth themselves in him' (οὗτος εστιν Ιωαννης ο βαπτιστης αυτος ηγερθη απο των νεκρων και δια τουτο αι δυναμεις ενεργουσιν εν αυτω). Herod's guilt produces irrational fear: Jesus is John resurrected. 'Mighty works' (δυναμεις, miracles/powers) indicate Jesus' supernatural activities. Herod attributes them to John's resurrection empowerment. This reveals guilt's power: Herod knows he murdered an innocent man; conscience haunts him. Yet his superstition is theologically confused—why would resurrection produce miracle-working power? Guilt makes him irrational. This foreshadows Jesus' actual resurrection, which did produce miracle-working power through His followers. Herod's false resurrection fear ironically previews true resurrection reality.

Historical Context

Herod's fear reflects widespread ancient belief that murdered prophets might return for vengeance. Superstition oftenmingles with political power. Unlike later resurrection hope, Herod imagines vengeful haunting rather than glorified restoration. John himself worked no miracles (John 10:41); Herod incorrectly assumes resurrection grants new powers. Jesus' actual resurrection vindicated Him as Lord and Christ (Acts 2:36), empowering disciples through the Spirit (Acts 1:8). Early church preached resurrection despite persecution, confident in what

Herod's superstition unknowingly anticipated: death doesn't end God's servants but leads to glorification.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does Herod's guilty conscience teach about the power of suppressed moral knowledge?
2. How does Herod's false resurrection fear ironically point toward true resurrection hope?
3. What is the difference between superstitious fear and genuine faith in God's justice?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	εἶπεν	τοῖς	παισὶν	αὐτῷ	Οὗτός	ἐστιν	Ἰωάννης	ό
And	said		servants	he	This	is	John	
G2532	G2036		G3816	G846	G3778	G2076	G2491	G3588
βαπτιστής·	αὐτῷ	ἡγέρθη	ἀπὸ	τῶν	νεκρῶν	καὶ	διὰ	
the Baptist	he	is risen	from		the dead	And	therefore	
G910	G846	G1453	G575		G3498	G2532	G1223	
τοῦτο	αἱ	δυνάμεις		ἐνεργοῦσιν		ἐν	αὐτῷ	
G5124	G3588	mighty works	do shew forth themselves			in	he	
		G1411		G1754		G1722	G846	

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 16:14 (References John): And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

