

## Wise Enough? Matthew 13v44-14v12

Many in our culture are committed to ruling their own lives. But would ultimate control really benefit us as we imagine? *Are we wise enough to rule?* There's an invitation this morning to stop trying to do the impossible and to put ourselves in safe hands.

### 1) It's Worth It! (13v44-46, v51-52)

Often, discomfort with Jesus being in charge comes from not realizing just how good he is and, therefore, how precious being in his Kingdom is. Verses 44-46 reveal that—whether we happen across the incalculable value of his rule (v44) or, while seeking treasure, come to find that in his kingdom (v45-46)—the worth of Christ makes anything we give up pale into insignificance. The people in v44-46 are seeking his kingdom first and holding nothing back. They don't want to hold back, because they know He is worth it! *What good thing might Jesus ultimately want to withhold, or loss might he not compensate for, or wisdom might he lack for our lives, or suffering might he lack the power to bring us through?* We can trust him with it all.

### 2) Too Offended (13v53-58)

Jesus speaks in the synagogue of his hometown, Nazareth (v53), and the people who are familiar with him are astonished at his wisdom and powerful works (v54). But they are also offended by him (v57). Jesus is fulfilling their Scriptures (v52; our OT), but their reaction to Jesus is preventing them coming to know God truly. They refuse to acknowledge him as a prophet speaking God's words (v57) or as King. He's just too human (v55-56). They question the source of his authority and wisdom (v54, 56) and reject any authority he might have over them. They won't trust him & let him rule for them, and so they are strangers to his powerful saving work in their lives (v58).

### 3) Too Attached (14v1-12)

Herod the tetrarch ruled Galilee for over 40 years. He's used to using his power to feed his appetites. He's also interested in spiritual things and likes listening to John the Baptist (Mark 6v20). But he ends up haunted and guilty (14v1-2). Herod puts John into prison (v3), because Herod took and married his half-brother's wife, Herodias, and John told him it was unlawful (v4). Herod doesn't want his power as governor undermined and he wants to keep Herodias happy. He was a step away from the Kingdom but preferred the mire. Watch how he is the opposite of free as his birthday party plays out (v6-11). He lets his young step-daughter dance in front of his important guests. Driven on by their admiration and the heightened sensuality of the occasion, he rashly promises the girl anything. John's head, shockingly, is brought on a plate and Herod is now both a marriage breaker and a murderer. Herod isn't wise enough to rule his own life, let alone Galilee! He's not in charge, he's in a mess. He's too attached to his job, people's opinion and a wife he should never have taken. *How might it have looked, at the point of v4, for Herod to turn to Jesus and instead ask him to rule for him?*

4) Too Good to Miss! (13v44-46 again) There's a bigger reality than you or me, and the truth of Jesus is that reality is kind—He's infinitely good, wise and life-giving. And He offers to be *for you, to rule for you*, and ultimately to make all things yours. That's too good to miss. *Are you all in?*

