

July 11. A Royal Coward

by J.R. Miller

Transcript

"The king was distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he ordered that her request be granted" Matthew 14:9

Herod called himself a king " and yet see what a poor slave he was, what a craven coward! He was sorry he had made the oath, exceedingly sorry. His conscience was not altogether dead. He did not want to kill John. He was afraid of public opinion, which he knew would condemn him. He was afraid of avenging wrath. Then he hates himself for having been caught by Herodias in her plot to have her long-cherished revenge. Yet he was so much a slave that, although he claimed to be a king " he had not the courage to refuse such a request.

True, he had made an oath " but no promise or oath is binding which requires one to sin. Of course, Herod did very wrong to make such a reckless oath, not knowing what his promise would involve. After he had made it " he was bound to keep it, at whatever cost to himself " provided nothing sinful was involved. If Herodias had asked for half his kingdom, he would have been bound to grant her request; but he was under no obligation to grant any desire which required him to commit sin.

It was not the oath, however, that really influenced Herod. He had not the courage to do the heroic thing he ought to have done. He was afraid of the ridicule of his guests; and he was so under the power of Herodias " that he dared not refuse what she demanded. It was his weakness which wrecked him. Rather than be a moral hero " he stained his hands in holy blood; and the stains are not yet washed out.

There are some things which we have no right to swear away. Things that are our own " we are always to do with as we have sworn. According to the Scriptures, a good man, having sworn to his own hurt " changes not. But no oath binds any one to give away another man\

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/jr-miller/july-11-a-royal-coward/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net