

**“Oh what a tangled web we weave, When first we practice to deceive” This quote written by Sir Walter Scott has been passed down through the ages about the messes we find ourselves in as we live this life. Allow me to give you some insight to another mess a king found himself in. Matthew 14:9, “And the king was sorry, but because of his oath and his guests he commanded it to be given.”**

**Sometimes we get ourselves into horrible situations and we realize the consequences only too late. Herod had given a party. There was drinking and all sorts revel rousing taking place. His step-daughter came out dancing and the king pleased with her dance and apparently intoxicated made a very rash promise. When he made the statement; he never thought what she would ask for. The request was made: She ask for something the king didn't wish to give her. She ask for the head of John the Baptizer.**

**Herod found himself in a no good, terrible, horrible place. He had some choices to make. HE could honor his promise and do what he did not want to do. He could “man-up” and say his promise was foolish, say no to her request, and perhaps his guests would give some type of unknown response such as, “He certainly did something foolish”, “He’s not a man of his word at all”, “Look how disappointed that little girl is...SHAME ON YOU KING HEROD.” What a horrible circumstance Herod found himself in. What a terrible choice to make! After all he was KING WASN'T HE? I MEAN, HE SHOULDN'T HAVE TO MAKE SUCH A HARD DECISION—SHOULD HE?**

**What do you think reader? Should he do the foolish thing and look good in front of his piers? Or should he admit he made a mistake and look “bad”, lose face? Well we know exactly what Herod did. He choose to “save face” and act in a very foolish way. Oh—the tragedy that results from ignorant and rash decisions when we attempt to keep “save face” and make the wrong decisions. Herod’s predicament was not an insignificant situation. Earlier when John made comment about his marriage to his brother’s wife; he wanted to kill him. Yet, because he thought he would upset his subjects he ruled over—he didn’t. Now he had a choice—upset the people he ruled or admit his mistake. Have you noticed—even in today’s society—how folks will do anything to hide their personal foolishness?**

**Herod had no idea that his step-daughter had sought advice from her mother. Still, Herod had some choices to make. He could kill John and postpone that which is inevitable by salvaging the immediate. In other words he could “save face” now and take care of the comments later. And so he rationalized to make the arrogant, rash promise a reality. He would preserve his reputation—after all that’s what this life is all about—my reputation. He would just “DEAL” with the other problems later. For now—he was king and a promise is a promise—NO MATTER HOW IGNORANT IT IS!**

**Does that sound familiar in our world today? We make foolish promises and carry them out even though we know the consequences are going to be bad. Yet, we rationalize them down to “I’ll deal with them later”. Reader, the at decision that day haunted Herod the REST OF HIS LIFE. Matthew 14:2, “When he heard about Jesus’ miracles, he said, ‘It must the resurrected John!’” Does that sound like a guilty conscience to you?**

**What will you do reader? Will think ahead and act accordingly? Do you think ahead and still act foolishly? Does arrogance and the world force you live hurtful and with the pride of life? I pray we all heed the words of the inspired writer Paul and that we are “...not conformed to this world...”, but that we “...renew our minds...” through God’s Word each day. Let us pay attention to our promises and our every “idle word.” May God bless each of you as you walk with Him daily.**

**In Christ,**

**Joe Rhodes**