

Happy Birthday



Do you like birthday parties? I'm sure you do. Maybe you're having one for this birthday. Did you know that there is a birthday party mentioned in the Bible? Yes, but it wasn't a very happy one in the end. In fact, it turned out to be quite a disaster!

In the book of Matthew, chapter 14, we read that King Herod was having a birthday party. But there was someone who was not invited to this party – in fact he was locked up in a dungeon, probably somewhere under the king's palace. His name was John Baptist. This was the same John Baptist who had baptised the Lord Jesus.

He was locked up because the king was angry with him. John had told King Herod that he was wrong to marry his brother's wife, Herodias. And so, because King Herod did not want to hear that he was wrong, he threw John Baptist into prison.

Back at the party, Herodias' daughter danced for the king. He was so pleased with her dancing that he promised to give her anything she asked for. She checked with her mother, Herodias. What should she ask for?

Do you know what they decided? She asked for John Baptist's head on a platter! The king was sorry, but he couldn't refuse. He had promised to give her anything.

He ended up killing the man who had tried to warn him about his sin. So that's how King Herod's birthday went.

What about your birthday? You are a year older now. Does this mean that you can behave better than you did yesterday? You might try to, because your parents or teachers tell you, "You're a big boy, or big girl, now." But, try as you may, you still do bad things, say bad things and think bad things, even on your birthday! These things are sins.

Do you know what you need? A new birthday! The Lord Jesus said, "You must be born again [from above]" (John 3:7). Not born from your mummy again, but born of God (John 1:13).

How can this happen? By believing that the Lord Jesus died for your sins, confessing your sins to Him, and asking Him to take them away. "Because if you confess [with your mouth] the Lord Jesus,

and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved” (Romans 10:9).

The Lord Jesus will hear you and take your sins away. If you ask Him today, this will be your new birthday, your spiritual birthday.

And do you know what? There will be a big celebration in heaven, rejoicing among the angels over one sinner - you - if you repent, that is, turn from your sins (Luke 15:10). That is a celebration that God can be part of – far better than any birthday party you could ever have on earth!

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