TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Don Taylor /Opening Prayer by: David Smith

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Danny Balch

#590 Jesus Is All the World To me
#286 Wonderful Story of Love

Scripture Reading by: Brooks McKelroy
#214 Have You Seen Jesus, My Lord?
Lord's Supper and Contribution

#162 All Hail the Power of Jesus Name
Sermon: "God Breaks In"
Print Mark 1:9-15

#947 Jesus Is Tenderly Calling
#300 Praise Him! Praise Him!

Closing Prayer by: Daniel Balch

Welcome by Don Taylor

Evening Assembly Song Leader: Danny Balch

#548 The Lily of the Valley
#837 I Need Thee Every Hour

Scripture Reading: Tristan Strickhausen
Opening Prayer: Wayne Noonkester
#615 He Keeps Me Singing
#678 More About Jesus

Sermon: "His Life: Jesus' Role in Creation"
Colossians 1:15-17

#650 Send the Light
#549 There Is Sunshine In My Soul

Closing Prayer: Jerry Mast

Other Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

Sunday: 9:00am — Bible Study Classes, 10:00am — Worship, 6:00pm — Worship
Wednesday: 10:00am — Ladies Bible Class, 7:00pm — Bible Study Classes

Jan. 26, 2020

"Stand Firm in…Liberty"

Galatians 5:1

Josephus on John the Baptist

From time to time, I think it is beneficial to compare what we find in Scripture to historical sources outside the New Testament. Since we talked about John the Baptist in our sermon last week, it might be interesting to note what the Jewish historian Josephus has to say about him.

About this time Aretas, the king of Petra, and Herod the Tetrarch had a quarrel on account of the following. Herod the tetrarch had married the daughter of Aretas and had lived with her a great while; but once when he was on his way to Rome he lodged with his half-brother, also named Herod but who had a different mother, the high priest Simon's daughter. There he fell in love with Herodias, this latter Herod's wife, who was the daughter of their brother Aristobulus and the sister of Agrippa the Great.

This man ventured to talk to her about a marriage between them; she accepted, and an agreement was made for her to come to him as soon as he should return from Rome, one condition of this marriage being that he should divorce Aretas's daughter. So when he had made this agreement, he sailed to Rome; but when he had finished there and returned again, his wife, having discovered the agreement he had made with Herodias, and before he knew that she knew of the plan, asked him to send her to Machaerus, a place on the border between the territories of Aretas and Herod, without informing him of any of her intentions.

Accordingly Herod sent her there, thinking his wife had not perceived anything. But she had sent messages a good while before to Machaerus, which had been under the control of her father, and so all things necessary for her escape were made ready for her by the general of Aretas's army. By that means she soon came into Arabia, under the conduct of the several generals, who carried her from one to another successively; and soon she came to her father and told him of Herod's intentions.

Aretas made this the start of his enmity toward Herod. He also had a quarrel with him about their boundaries in the area of Gabalis. So they raised armies on both sides and prepared for war, sending their generals to fight instead of themselves. And when they had joined battle, all Herod's army was destroyed by the treachery of some fugitives who, though they were of the tetrarchy of Philip and joined the army, betrayed him. So Herod wrote about these affairs to Emperor Tiberius, who was very angry at the attempt made by Aretas and wrote to Vitellius to make war upon him and either to take him alive, and bring him in chains, or to kill him, and send him his head. This was the command that Tiberius gave to the governor of Syria.

Family News & Notes

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our Sick

Derrick Loften is recovering from burns.

Continued Prayers
(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Gwen Pettit, Gary Nielsen, Harold & Geri Cryer, Steve Ward, Jackie David, Frank & Tina Garcia, Dayla Hale, Joe Edd Stifflemire, Barry Johnson, Kelly McCain

Shut Ins
(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Winona Angelle, Myrtle Sheffield, Dr. Ronald Davis, Larry Hicks, Mark Wilcox, Bill Lunceford

Our Missionaries

Aaron & Marisa Bailey in Mwanza, Africa, Rod Kyle in the South Pacific

Plastic Bags

The Food Bank is in need of plastic grocery bags and **egg cartons**. A barrel is in the foyer.

Upcoming Activities

Elders, Minister meet Monday, Jan. 27th at 7:00 p.m.

We will have a Houston Food Bank truck on Tuesday, Feb. 4th at 8:00 a.m.

Primetimers will be meeting in the family life center on Tuesday, Feb. 11th at 6:30 pm. We will learn how to make tamales. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family of Doris Trahan. She passed away Wednesday night. Funeral arrangements are pending.

Thank You

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for all the thoughts and prayers during my Dad's health problems last year and this year. Thank you for the kind words, prayers, the food and the plant during our recent loss. Please continue to keep us in your prayers,
In Christian love,
Barbara Cantu and family

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Office Phone Number (936) 336-2213; Fax (936) 334-8280;
Minister's (Bryant Perkins) Cell Phone Number (903)407-5737
Website: libertycofc.org Facebook page: Liberty Church of Christ

Privilege to Serve
Sunday, Jan. 26th

Communion Preparation: Virginia Pickard
Nursery Attendants: Tania Balch, Pat Hobbs

Communion Preparation for Sunday, Feb. 2nd: Patsy Pierce
Nursery Attendants for Sunday, Feb. 2nd: Jane Tinkle, Rita Upton

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Now some of the Jews thought that the destruction of Herod's army came from God, and was a very just punishment for what he did against John called the Baptist. For Herod had him killed, although he was a good man and had urged the Jews to exert themselves to virtue, both as to justice toward one another and reverence towards God, and having done so join together in washing. For immersion in water, it was clear to him, could not be used for the forgiveness of sins, but as a sanctification of the body, and only if the soul was already thoroughly purified by right actions. And when others massed about him, for they were very greatly moved by his words, Herod, who feared that such strong influence over the people might carry to a revolt—for they seemed ready to do any thing he should advise—believed it much better to move now than later have it raise a rebellion and engage him in actions he would regret.

And so John, out of Herod's suspiciousness, was sent in chains to Machaerus, the fort previously mentioned, and there put to death; but it was the opinion of the Jews that out of retribution for John God willed the destruction of the army so as to afflict Herod. (*Antiquities* 18.5.109-119)

Josephus basically corroborates the picture of John in Mark's Gospel, where "all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were begin baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins" **(Mark 1:5).** He notes that John was known for practicing baptism, for calling for repentance, and for being extremely popular, even if some of the details about the efficacy of his immersion as it relates to forgiveness of sins does not match with what we find in the New Testament.

Perhaps most interesting is the connection the people made between the defeat of Herod's army and his execution of John the Baptist. Why did they believe that? The most likely answer is that John was killed for criticizing the marriage of Herod to Herodias (**Mark 6:17-29)**—the marriage which caused his war with Aretas and, ultimately, resulted in the destruction of his army.

Over and over again, we find that the Bible can be trusted as a reliable source.

Bryant Perkins