

it affords opportunity for recreation and quickens the mind and takes away the feeling of drudgery. However, it must be said that when one spends an evening, that the next day, he needs little exercise and also he needs something that will give him back some of the pep that he was supposed to have gotten the evening before.

Now, those who say, well, it doesn't harm me, I wonder if you with your cold, reserved nature, would perhaps be very reserved until you get on the dance floor. And, then, things change. And you will tolerate almost anything. As some young fellow whispers a batch of lies into your ears while you are dancing. And you say, there is no harm in it for you. That you never get excited, it doesn't bother you in the least, when you are dancing. And yet, when a girl is ruined, she hides herself in some dark spot of the great city.

There are others who have charity balls which seem to be the greatest insult to God that anyone ever undertook. Is there anyone here so lowdown that they wouldn't give a dollar to charity unless someone got up and danced? In the ballroom, you allow liberties to men that you wouldn't allow elsewhere. You grant liberties that if a man other than your husband would attempt in your home, you would immediately be shocked. You say you need exercise. But, it seems to me that passion is the basis of the popular dance. If we made men dance by themselves, and women by themselves, I believe the dance would go out within a month's time. Men play games, go to sports events, and all of these things without their wives, but when it comes to dancing, which they claim is also an exercise they don't want to do it by themselves. Which reminds me of what Mr. Biddisford once said, that if we were to segregate the sexes on the dance floor, that it would go out like a whirlwind. Because, he had just as soon, hug a lamp post, a barrel of pickles, or his mother-in-law as to hug another man.

3. There is nothing spiritual. There is nothing in dancing that would enhance one's spiritual power. I don't believe that one gains any spiritual power on the dance floor. Did you ever come home feeling that you had spent the night in a way that was pleasing to God, that you were a better man or woman, and better capable of doing in life Christian service? I don't believe that anyone ever returned from a dance feeling that they were on higher ground spiritually? Did you ever come to church the next day and take the pastor by the hand and say, "I'm on higher ground

## DINE, DRINK, DANCE, AND DEATH

Matt. 14: 1-12

Mark 6: 14-30

Introd.

When we consider the history of such affairs, we see that times of carnal mirth are convenient times for carrying out evil designs against God's people. For ex., when the Philistines were having a great celebration, they brought Samsen in in order to make sport and to abuse him. When the king, Belshazzar was at the height of glory in his kingdom, he was enjoying a great feast and on such occasion he lost his kingdom. And so it follows in the story for consideration this morning, we have a great celebration, followed by a great calamity. *M. S. says - Pass you, starting, on-f, Aming, and Golden Calif.*

I. Dine

1. The occasion was the birthday of Herod Antipas. He was ruler of Galilee and Perea. One fourth of the dominion of Herod the Great. It was a big banquet or feast in honor of his birthday.
2. The guests invited - The scripture tells that they invited the outstanding men of the kingdom. Those who were Herod's servants and who ruled for him, were all included in this great celebration. Also present at this birthday feast was Herodias. She was the wife of Herod. Or we might say, the unlawful wife of Herod Antipas. She herself was a descendant of Herod the Great and had married Philip of Rome. She had divorced him in order to marry Herod Antipas after he had divorced his wife who was the daughter of the King of Arabia. As one has said, it was a nasty case equal to any of our modern divorces. Her first husband was still alive and marriage with a sister-in-law was forbidden to the Jews - Lev. 18:16, 20:17. Only after the death of a brother, was one permitted to marry. But, in this case, both were alive. And therefore, at the time of this banquet, John the Baptist, is confined in prison because on several occasions he had condemned Herod and this woman for living together. Herod had sought to curb his preaching and put him in jail. And so this evil woman waited for a convenient day which as the scripture indicates, she had waited a long time, made careful plans, set a trap, and used Herod as a mere cat's paw. With all of the noble chiefs, out of civil life present, with a big feast in progress, she proceeded to defeat her prey.

## II. Drink

1. Wine - This banquet was highlighted with wine and strong drink being served. And therefore, it soon got out of hand.

2. Some tolerated today. As we think of taxing whiskey as other businesses. It is a sad state of affairs that it is being tolerated in our nation and that it is even tolerated by church people sometimes. I read a report of the chief of police for the city of Norfolk in 1907. Which stated that there were 6,313 arrests. And that 2,092 were made for intoxication. It would seem that this problem has been tolerated long enough. And perhaps if we had the figures for this year, it would be amazing as to the no. of arrests.

3. Nothing spiritual about it. As I think of strong drink, there is nothing uplifting at all. It is money that should provide better food of the tables of our home, better clothes for our boidies, better furniture, and if done away with would provide more sunshine in thousands of homes where today we find unhappiness. Because it will lead people to do almost anything in the world. I read an illus. of a group of men who had gathered in a railroad station and one pulled out a bottle of whiskey. And offered it to a salesman but he said, no, and they laughed at him. He said you may laugh if you like. There was a time when I had an appetite for 5 to 10 glasses a day. But, I was in the home of a friend in Chicago who operates a pawn shop. I was there when a young man came in and threw a little package on the counter and said, give me ten cents. What do you think was in that package? A pair of baby shoes. My friend said to him, no I cannot take those. But, he said, give me a dime, I must have a drink. No, take them home, your baby will need them. And the poor fellow said, my baby is dead and I want a drink. He said, there is nothing in the world that could cause me to respect drink. It is slavery. And nothing spiritual ever comes out of drink, always trouble and distress.

4. There are many grave dangers. As we think of drink, there are those who start out by saying no thank you, and they repeat that over and over again. And people laugh and say, come on and be socialable. Be a jolly

good fellow. Join in the fun. And then, he submits. And then, it is one drink after another. Until he is crying out in his soul, what must I do, how can I get rid of this habit? It has as many grave dangers as a rattlesnake and should be treated as such. Here was a wild party. With drinking and soon we shall see the results of such a high hour of sin.

## III. Dance

1. Salons. The feasting had turned to drinking and now it went on to dancing. This young girl was the daughter of Herodias by her first marriage. She was called upon by her mother to come out and dance. It was a shameful exhibiton of wild dancing. This was all part of her purpose to do away with John the Baptist. This young girl had stooped to the level of a common dancer. This seemed to please the king very much.

2. Some tolerate dancing today. In fact, there are some churches that tolerate dances and sponsor them. But, I think most (spiritual churches) forbid them and are against them. I read of a Catholic priest who made a statement against the dance, because he said, the confessional reveals, how our people fall. And we trace the majority of them to the laxity in the ballroom. There are those in religious circles who would say, that young people must sow their wild oats, but we cannot sow wild oats and reap virtue at the same time. There are those who charge that the church is too strict upon the young people and that it should have nothing to say or do with the matter of prohibiting dancing. There are many kind people who personally support it in speech and participation. They assert that there is no harm therein and they deny that Satan has calculated the no. of gained souls for his kingdom. They say that there is nothing immoral or un-Christian about dancing. They contend that it is beneficial for the individual. They say that it is good exercise and will cause one to walk well, sit well, and appear well physically. There may be some truth in that argument. There are others who say that

to walk the right path, yet love such  
dancing, societal drinking, we have  
decided to remain as we are, & further  
we will make it hard on the pious  
preacher who condemns such.

We have decided against God!

"John first had taken the wind to himself -

Christ is yours today!

" of clean living, habits, etc!"

this morning. I danced all night last night. "Life is short and brief! And the dancing Christian never becomes a soul-winner." Dancing is simply a (hugging match) set to music. And it seems to me that dancing should be put out of business by not only preachers but by every woman and man who is interested in morals. There are some who feel that we should not preach against amusements. But, I think that only a preacherette would avoid speaking on the modern evils of this day. The spirit fill'd women of our churches today are not those who dine, drink, and dance. They will never amount to much.

4. Grave dangers. As I look at this subject, I see many, many dangers. As bodies are drawn tightly together, it appears to me that there would be quite a struggle to go through such a dance without one's (mind) being stained with evil thoughts. If you have ever indulged in it, did you never have an ignoble thought? It is the open door for a shameful life. You have but to go to a place where many fallen women are congregating together to discover that perhaps it started on the dance floor. It is married to the saloon. The dance is married to that kind of company. It is impossible to spend part of the night or all night and then come in and get on his knees and thank God for those wonderful hours. It is all in the interest of Satan. There is not an element in it that would attract one heavenly or keep one unspotted from the world. The dance is a moral graveyard of more girls than anything else in the world. It is immoral because even society women will admit that men take liberties that they would not take anywhere else or under any other circumstances. Someone has said that 3/4 of the girls that are ruined owe their downfall to this very thing. You let a young man whose character is a bit questionable dance every other night with your pure daughter and you will see what happens. You may accompany to a ball room and see the young man wrap his arms about her, and may come back and say that there is not harm in it. And I would tell you that you were lacking somewhere.

✓ I read of a young girl who once gave some reasons why she did not dance. First, she says the dance would lead me to crowded ballrooms and late hours that would injure my health. Second, the dance would be to permit freedom to the other sex of which I would be abused. Third, ministers and good people in general are against the dance and I would not set myself against them.

Fourth, the dance has a bad name. Fifth, the dance is usually accompanied with drinking. Sixth, I am told that the dance is a temptation and a snare to young men and the dance fits the mind for serious reflection and prayer. Seventh, there is plenty of healthful exercise which we may indulge in and things which we may do to the glory of God. No wonder the world is not being brought to Jesus today when we have so much indulgence in worldly things. This dance pleased Herod very much, which brings us to our next point...

#### IV. Death

1. Public promise. Matt. 7 and Mark 23  
Here was a rash promise confessed with an oath made in the public. Toward the close of the banquet when all had partaken freely of wine, Herodias invited her daughter to come in and dance. Such dancing was almost unrepresented for women of rank or even respectability. It was licentious, and the glassed eyed group, languid, on the divans, were thrilled with the licentious dance of the half-naked princess. The drunken king had been caught in the net and says up to half of my kingdom.

2. Grim request. Matt. 8 and Mark 24  
The daughter asked the mother for advice. Perhaps she was thinking of something for herself. And so, she was not long composing a blood-thirsty request. It was a grim request. Bring me the head of John the Baptist on a platter or a dish. You see, her mother had it in for the prophet of the wilderness for daring to denounce her private relations with Herod. She kept her eyes on him and never let up. This was a plot equal to the one enacted by Jezebel.

3. Grossest picture. Matt. 11 and Mark 26-27, 5  
The execution was immediate and probably took place right in the prison for they would not bring John out in public, it might cause an uproar. And so, the bodyguard of Herod, fulfilled the grim request. And the last scene is a gruesome picture of the bodyguard presenting to Herodias this platter with the head of John the Baptist. Someone has suggested that she gave herself to barbarous diversion by pricking the tongue with a needle. Surely, the voice had been silenced, the bright and shining light had been put out.

And then, the friends come and bury the body and presenting their burden to Jesus, so we have in order, dine, drink, dance, and death. Which reminds me of a verse of scripture in the Bible that says, the wages of sin is death.

John 1:7 - (John had preached)  
1. John of the Light - The true light  
2. I am a voice - made straight the way of the Lord -  
3. Behold, the Lamb of God, which taketh away  
the sin of the world -  
1:27 - no man had seen him  
one day & they followed him -

Herodias & Herod put the voice to death - We have  
strangled our part - The more righteous preaching  
for us, we don't have to go have a preacher like that -  
Still faced with conscience, with the person of X,  
Herodias & Herod put celebration, party, dancing in  
honorable place  
Still faced with Judgment Day.  
Herodias & Herod put a price on the head of John.  
Still condemned by the law of law. Forbidding things  
Herodias & Herod had made their choice: had given  
this response to God's message:  
Plainly - we will continue to live as we have as,  
we are enjoying our sin, broader than the Baptist you  
any one else will influence us otherwise, we  
will be us, we do not intend