

Chapter 14

Hearing the vnworthy Decollation of Iohn Baptift by Herod, 12. he betaketh him to his vfual folitarines in the defert, and there feedeth 5000. with fiue loaues. 23. And then after the night fpent in the mountaine in prayer, he walketh vpon the fea (fignifying the wide world) 28. yea and Peter alfo: wherevpon they adore him as the Sonne of God. 35. And with the very touch of his garments hemme he healeth innumerable.

*Mr. 6, 14.
Lu. 9, 7. 3, 19.*

brother Philips

At that time Herod the Tetrarch heard the fame of IESVS: ² and faid to his feruants: This is Iohn the Baptift: he is rifen from the dead, & therefore vertues worke in him. ³ For Herod apprehended Iohn and bound him, & put him into prifon ⁴because of Herodias, his ‘brothers’ wife. ⁴ For Iohn faid vnto him: It is not lawful for thee to haue her. ⁵ And willing to put him to death, he feared the People: becaufe they efteemed him as a Prophet. ⁶ But on Herods birth-day, the daughter of Herodias danced before them: and pleaſed Herod. ⁷ Wherevpon he promiſed with an oth, to giue her whatfoeuer ſhe would aſke of him. ⁸ But ſhe being instructed before of her mother faith: Giue me here in a diſh the head of Iohn the Baptift. ⁹ And the King was ftroken ſad: yet becaufe of his ^aoth, and for them that fate with him at table, he commanded it to be giuen. ¹⁰ And he ſent, and beheaded Iohn in the prifon. ¹¹ And his head was brought in a diſh: and it was giuen to the damfel, and ſhe brought it to her mother. ¹² And his Diſciples came and took the body, and ⁴buried it ^band came and told IESVS.

*Mr. 6, 31.
Luc. 9, 10.
Io. 6, 2.*

¹³ Which when IESVS had heard, he ⁴retired from thence by boat, into a defert place apart, and the multitudes hauing heard of it, folowed him on foot out of

^a A wicked & rafh oth, and more wickedly fulfilled: becaufe an vnlawful oth bindeth no mā.

^b S. Iohns Diſciples at this time had wel learned their duty toward Chrift.

the cities. ¹⁴ And he cōming forth faw a great multitude, and pitied them, and cured their difeafed. ¹⁵ And when it was euening, his Difciples came vnto him, faying: It is a defert place, and the houre is now paf: dimiffe the multitudes, that going into the townes, they may buy themfelues victuals. ¹⁶ But IESVS faid to them: They haue no need to goe: giue ye them to eate. ¹⁷ They answered him: We haue not here, but fiue loaues, and two fifhes. ¹⁸ Who faid to them: Bring them hither to me. ¹⁹ And when he had commanded the multitude to fit downe vpon the graffe, he took the fiue loaues and the two fifhes, and looking vp vnto Heauen he bleffed, and brake, and gaue the loaues to his Difciples, and [♠]the Difciples to the multitudes. ²⁰ And they did al eate, and had their fil. And they took the leauings, twelue ful baskets of the fragments. ²¹ And the number of them that did eate was, fiue thoufand men, befide women and children.

²² And forthwith IESVS commanded his Difciples to goe vp into the boat, and to goe before him ouer the water, til he dimiffed the multitudes. ²³ And hauing dimiffed the multitude, he afcended into a mountaine alone to pray. And when it was euening, he was there alone. ²⁴ But the boat in the middes of the fea was toffed with waues: for the wind was contrarie. ²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night, he came vnto them walking vpon the fea. ²⁶ And feeing him vpon the fea [♠]walking, they were troubled faying: That it is a Ghoft: & for feare they cried out. ²⁷ And immediatly IESVS fpake vnto them, faying: Haue confidence it is I, feare ye not. ²⁸ And Peter making anfwer faid: Lord if it be thou, bid me come to thee vpon the waters. ²⁹ And he faid, Come. And Peter defcending out of the boat, [♠]walked vpon the water to come to IESVS. ³⁰ But feeing the wind rough, he was afraid: and when he began to be drowned, he cried out faying: Lord, faue me. ³¹ And

Mr. 6, 46.

Io. 2, 26.

incontinent ^{a)}IESVS ftretching forth his hand took hold of him, and faid vnto him: O thou of litle Faith, why didft thou doubt? ³² And when they were gone vp into the boat, the winde ceafed. ³³ And they that were in the boat, came and adored him, faying: Indeed thou art the Sonne of God.

³⁴ And hauing paffed the water, they came into the countrie of Genefar. ³⁵ And when the men of that place vnderftood of him, they fent into al that countrie, and brought vnto him al that were il at eafe: ³⁶ and they befought him that they might touch but the ^{b)}hemme of his garment, and whofoeuer did touch, were made hole.

ANNOTATIONS

3 Becaufe of Herodias) It is too ordinariē in Princes to put them to death that freely tel them fuch faults: women, whom they fanfie, epecially inciting them to fuch mifcheefe.

12 Buried it) An example of duty toward the dead bodies of the Faithful: wherein fee the difference of Catholike Christian men, & of al Infidels, be they Pagans, Apoftates, or Heretikes. For whereas the Chrifians had layd the body of this Bleffed Prophet and Martyr in Samaria with the Relikes of Elias and Abdias, by vertue wherof wonderful miracles were wrought in that place, in Iulian the Apoftates time, when men might doe al mifcheefe freely againft Christian religion, the Pagans opened the tombe of S. Iohn Baptift, burnt his bones, fcattered the afhes about the fields: but certaine religious Monkes coming thither a pilgrimage at the fame time, aduentured their life and faued as much of the holy Relikes as they could, and brought them to their Abbot Philip, a man of God: who efteeming them too great a treafure for him and his to keep for their priuate deuotion, fent them to Athanafius the B. of Alexandria; and he with al reuerence layd them in fuch a place (as it were by the Spirit of Prophecie) where afterward by occafion of them was built a goodly chappel. *Theod. li. 5. c. 6. Ruff. li. 2. c. 27, 28.* Marke here that the Heretikes of our time doe as thofe Pagans, to the bodies & Relikes of al Bleffed Saints that they can deftroy: and Catholikes contrariwife haue the religious deuotion

Sacrilege againft
holy Relikes.

Hiero. in Epitaph. Paulæ. c. 6.

^a Notwithftāding the infirmities of them that gouerne the Church, yet Chrift fustaineth them; and holdeth them vp, yea and by them, whofoeuer they are, he vpholdeth and preferueth his Church.

^b See before, *Chap. 9, 20.*

of those old Christians, as appeareth by the honour done now to his head at Amians in France.

13 Retired) Christ much esteemed Iohn, and withdrew himself aside, to give example of moderate mourning for the departed, and to shew the horror of that execrable murder: as in the Primitive Church many good men seeing the miserable state of the world in time of persecution, and the finnes that abounded withal, took an occasion to forsake those tumults, and to give themselves to contemplation; and for that purpose retired into the deserts of Ægypt, and els where, to doe penance for their owne finnes, and the finnes of the world. Whereupon partly rose that infinite number of Monkes & Eremites, of whom the Fathers and Ecclesiastical histories make mention. *Hiero. 2. 10. in vis. Pauli Eremitæ. Sozo. li. 1. c. 12. 13.*

Eremites.

19 The Siciples to the multitudes) A figure of the ministrie of the Apostles; who as they here had the distribution and ordering of these miraculous loaves, so had they also to bestow and dispense al the foode of our foules, in ministring of the Word & Sacraments; neither may laimen challenge the fame.

26 Walking) When not only Christ, but by his power Peter also walketh vpon the waters, it is euident that he can dispose of his owne body aboue nature, and contrary to the natural condition thereof, as to goe through a doore. *Io. 20. to be in the compasse of a litle bread. Epiphan. in Anchorato.*

29 Walked) Peter (saith S. Bernard) walking vpon the waters, as Christ did, declared himself the only Vicar of Christ, which should be Ruler not ouer one People, but ouer al. For many waters, are many peoples. *Bernard li. 2. de confid. c. 8.* See the place, how he deduceth from Peter the like authoritie and iurisdiction to his Successour the Bishop of Rome.

Peters Primacie.