

Matthew 14

14:1 At that time Herod (Herod. Royal name for political rulers during that time. It meant being heroic) the tetrarch (king, governor, prince) heard the report about Jesus

2 and said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him."

- Some commentators believe that Herod was afraid of John the Baptist, a righteous man whom he had wrongfully put to death.
- He was guilty and his “ghosts” were haunting him.

3 For Herod had laid hold of John and bound him, and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his Brother Philip's wife.

- Herod the great tried to kill baby Jesus. He had about 14 children of whom among them were Philip, Antipas and Aristobulus.
- Herodias was Aristobulus’s daughter.

4 Because John had said to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her."

- How dare he disrespect a king like that?
- Josephus says that this marriage of Herod Antipas with Herodias took place while he was on a journey to Rome. He stopped at his brother's; fell in love with his wife; agreed to put away his own wife, the daughter of Arteas, king of Petraea; and Herodias agreed to leave her own husband, and live with him. They were living, therefore, in adultery; and John in faithfulness, though

at the risk of his life, had reproved them for their crimes. Herod was guilty of two crimes in this act:

- (1) of adultery, as she was the wife of another man;
- (2) of incest, as she was a near relation, and such marriages were expressly forbidden.

5 And although he wanted to put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet.

- Luke 20:1 ¶ Now it happened on one of those days, as He taught the people in the temple and preached the gospel, that the chief priests and the scribes, together with the elders, confronted Him
- 2 and spoke to Him, saying, "Tell us, by what authority are You doing these things? Or who is he who gave You this authority?"
- 3 But He answered and said to them, "I also will ask you one thing, and answer Me:
- 4 "The baptism of John--was it from heaven or from men?"
- 5 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say, 'Why then did you not believe him?'
- 6 "But if we say, 'From men,' all the people will stone us, for they are persuaded that John was a prophet."

6 But when Herod's birthday was celebrated, the daughter of Herodias (who was called Salome, his great niece/ step daughter) danced before them and pleased Herod.

- The party was attended by dignitaries from all over.
- Salome's dance was a lewd obscene fertility dance adopted from Greece.

7 Therefore he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask.

8 So she, having been prompted by her mother, said, "Give me John the Baptist's head here on a platter."

9 And the king was sorry;

- **Most likely because he was afraid of what the multitude would do to him.**

Nevertheless, because of the oaths and because of those who sat with him, he commanded it to be given to her.

10 So he sent and had John beheaded in prison.

11 And his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother.

12 Then his disciples came and took away the body and buried it, and went and told Jesus.

13 ¶ When Jesus heard it, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself.

- **He probably went there to mourn his cousin and to pray.**

But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities.

14 And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.

- **Jesus had a mission which not even the death of his cousin could deter Him from accomplishing.**

15 When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send

the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food."

16 But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

- This was a test of their faith.

17 And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish."

- Whatever we need to minister to people, God has already given to us.
- Share the little you have first and God will increase.

18 He said, "Bring them here to Me."

19 Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes.

- In seeking a blessing on our food it means, to pray that it may be made nourishing to our bodies; that we may have proper gratitude to God, the Giver, for providing for our wants; and that we may remember the Creator, while we partake the bounties of his providence. Our Saviour always sought a blessing on his food. In this he was an example for us. What he did, we should do. It is right thus to seek the blessing of God. He provides for us; he daily opens his hand, and satisfieth our wants; and it is proper that we should render suitable acknowledgments for his goodness.

20 So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained.

- **So as not to be wasteful.**

21 Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Mt 14:22 ¶ Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side (to Capernaum), while He sent the multitudes away.

23 And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.

- **John 6:14 Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."**
- **15 ¶ Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.**

24 But the boat was now in the middle of the sea (about 4 miles), tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

25 Now in the fourth watch of the night (between 3am and 6am) Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.

26 And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.

27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me (call me) to come to You on the water."

29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.

30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous (strong), he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

- Peter is a good example of so many Christians today, very rash, no caution, quick to act but slow to think.
- But his life also shows a strong dependency on Christ just as our own lives should be.

31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

- Peter before Pentecost, was a man of action but very little faith.
- Our actions and faith must be balanced in order for us to live a full life as Christians.

32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

33 Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

- Every storm we face is meant to build our faith in God but only if we truly know Him.
- He allows us to face these things so He can help us thus He is glorified.

34 ¶ When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret.

- Land of Gennesaret. This region was in Galilee, on the west side of the sea of Tiberias; and in this land was situated Capernaum, to which he had directed his disciples to go.

35 And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent out into all that surrounding region, brought to Him all who were sick,

36 and begged Him that they might only touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched it were made perfectly well.