



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The King's Divinity!

Matthew 14:1-21

Message #39 of 80 – S1070

Sermon given on November 5, 2023



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The King's Divinity!

Matthew 14:1-21

Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 13**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The King's Divinity!**
- Matthew's gospel is written to help Jews see Jesus as the Messiah King they say they have been waiting for.
- But Christ Jesus is more than just King, much more.
- We will see one of the greatest pieces of evidence of that in our text for the day.
- Matthew 14 has three miracles, two of them may be the most memorable of all His miracles.
- But first, the focus is on one of the villains of Matthew's gospel.
- **Matthew 14:1-2**
- King Herod hears about all Jesus' miracles and determines that Jesus is the resurrected John the Baptist.
- That is interesting because John didn't do any miracles.
- Herod the tetrarch is also known as Herod Antipas.
- He is the son of Herod the Great.
- It was his father who killed all the babies in Bethlehem after Christ was born.
- Matthew tells us what happened to John the Baptist.
- **Matthew 14:3-4**
- Herodias had been Herod's half-brother's wife.
- He proposed to her while they were both married, and they both divorced their spouses to be with each other.
- **(Proverbs 6:16-19)** epitomizes Herod.

These six *things* the LORD hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: ¹⁷ a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ a heart that devises

wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, ¹⁹ a false witness *who* speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.

- Herod's picture ought to be right next to those verses.
- Herod was one of those people who doesn't like to be bothered with any facts or truth that is opposed to their own view of reality.
- And John was one of types that didn't let fear keep him from speaking the truth, even to someone as powerful as King Herod.

- **Matthew 14:5**

- Mark's gospel tells us that Herod had mixed feelings about John.

(**Mark 6:20**)

Herod feared John, knowing that he *was* a just and holy man, and he protected him.

- Herodias was the one who wanted John dead more than Herod did.
- Her opportunity arrived.

- **Matthew 14:6-11**

- The common interpretation of the word 'pleased' here is a perverse pleasure. This is his stepdaughter – probably 16 or 17.
- Herod was consumed by his sinful pleasures.
- Once someone starts down the path to living a life seeking sinful pleasures it is very hard to turn away from it.
- They are often convinced by the lie that they won't be happy again if they give up their sinful pleasures.
- The lesson of Herod for us is that we must not allow any room in our lives for sin.
- When you discover some place of sin in your life you can accept it and live with it, or you can ignore it, or you can try to negotiate with it, or you can eradicate it.
- It is God's desire that you would repent of it and treat it like Israel is dealing with Hamas.
- People had asked John if he was the Messiah.
- He told them no – his place was to prepare the way for the Messiah.
- His job was done – He had finished his ministry.
- When people tried to compare John's ministry with Christ's, John said (**John 3:30**).

He must increase, but I *must* decrease.

- All focus must be on Christ.

- **Matthew 14:12-13**

- John was Jesus' cousin. What we might neglect to notice at times like this is the fact that Jesus was human, like us in many ways.
- He felt things. John's death, whether He knew it was coming or not, was not something to be simply dismissed as part of the plan.
- Jesus wanted to take time by Himself to pray and seek His father's comfort.
- Jesus' plan was to get away and spend some time alone.
- As sometimes happens, plans change.

- **Matthew 14:14**

- 'moved with compassion' – one of the traits of Christlikeness is considering other's needs before your own.
- 'compassion' – His heart went out to them. True compassion is always more than just what we feel – it also involves what we do.
- Jesus had come to this deserted place to be alone.
- Jesus will eventually find the time alone He seeks but not until the needs of the multitudes have been dealt with.
- It is possible that Jesus wanted to be alone because John's death foreshadowed His own death.
- John was a righteous man killed for speaking the truth.
- John's ministry was to prepare the way for the Christ.
- That way included death – the death on the cross.
- Jesus would soon be making the trip to Jerusalem.
- He was on His way to the loneliness of the atonement as He alone atoned for the sins of the whole world and as the Father turned away from Him.
- As Jesus seeks to contemplate His selfless act of sacrifice for the spiritual needs of the whole world, the physical needs of the multitude must be tended to first.
- Jesus spends the whole day healing every disease, ailment, or injury the multitude brought to Him.
- As the day wears on, the disciples come to Jesus with a logical suggestion.

- **Matthew 14:15**

- It might have been logical, but Jesus intended to use this to reveal something about His nature that they might not have understood yet.
- **Matthew 14:16-21**
- The feeding of the five thousand – a miracle we have heard about since we were all young.
- The fact that He wanted to get alone was an expression of Christ's humanity.
- But rather than being alone He engages in a marathon of healings for the multitudes.
- Then the multiplying of the loaves and fishes is an expression of His divinity.
- Jesus was fully human and was subject to all the same things other humans are subject to and at the same time He was fully God and perfectly holy.
- How should we respond to this miracle? What should our attitude be toward it?
- There is no example in human experience that compares with it.
- It is impossible. It is unbelievable.
- It cannot be duplicated (except by Him).
- This miracle is a declaration of who Christ is – He is God!
- This is the supernatural creative power of God manifesting through the Creator Himself.
- Speaking of Christ, Paul said (**Colossians 1:16-17**).
For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.
- This miracle is proof that Jesus is Immanuel – God with us!
- In this text, we learn of Christ's contemplation, compassion, and provision, but the most important lesson in this text is that Christ is with us – God in the flesh!
- As believers, we must be sensitive to the subtle changes going on in our heart.
- Herod was a man who had a conscience just like everyone else.

- Over time, with each choice to ignore his conscience, and satisfy his sinful desires, led him to the place where he could look into the lifeless eyes of John the Baptist and then go back to his party.
 - When we come to an account like this, do we think to ourselves, I've read that a hundred times, and heard a hundred sermons by better preachers than me?
 - Or do we allow the Spirit of God to fill our heart with wonder?
 - Imagine being one of the disciples and witnessing this miracle happen before your eyes.
 - Imagine being one of the thousands of people seeing food appearing out of nowhere and eating enough to be full.
 - And then remind yourself... (**Hebrews 13:8**).
- Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.**
- David and the team will come and lead us in one last worship song.
 - Christ Jesus, Creator God took a handful of food and fed thousands of people.
 - Do you believe it? Do you believe that it happened?
 - Do you believe that it could happen again? It did – in the next chapter.
 - Do you believe it could happen today?
 - Do you believe it could happen to you today?
 - Jesus calls us to walk where only our faith can see the path.
 - Jesus is our Immanuel – God with us.
 - Open your heart wide to Him and believe. **Pray**
 - Worship Team plays song.