

Matthew 14

Matthew 14:1-21 - The King's Divinity!

Scriptures:

^D ^H
1 At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the

report about Jesus

G189 - news

Notes:

Chapter 14 contains two of Jesus' most memorable miracles: the feeding of the 5,000 and walking on the water.

But it begins with Herod and John the Baptist. 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.

'tetrarch' – ruler of a fourth part. Herod the Great divided His kingdom into four parts. Herod Antipas ruled one of those parts.

Scriptures:

^H
2 and said to his servants, "This is John the

Baptist; he is ^A ^Drisen from the dead, and

G1453 -

Notes:

therefore these powers are at work in him."

G1411 - δύναμις
(dynamis)

G1754 -
functioning

Scriptures:

^H 3 For Herod had laid hold of John and bound

Notes:

him, and put *him* in prison for the sake of

Herodias, ^Hhis brother Philip's wife.

Scriptures:

Proverbs 6:16-19 -

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.

^H 4 Because John had said to him, "It is not

Notes:

lawful for you to have her."

Scriptures:

Mark 6:20 - for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just and holy man, and he protected him. And when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.

^H 5 And although he wanted to put ^J him to ^D death,

Notes:

Herod knew there was something different about John (Mark 6:20). Something about the way John talked affected Herod's conscience.

^H he feared the multitude, because they

counted him ^J as a ^P prophet.

Scriptures:

^H 6 But when Herod's birthday was celebrated,

Notes:

Only two birthday celebrations are mentioned in the Bible, Pharaoh's in Genesis 40:20 and Herod's.

The common interpretation of the word 'pleased' here is a perverse pleasure. This is his step-daughter.

the daughter of Herodias danced before them

and pleased ^H Herod.

G700 -

Scriptures:

7 Therefore he^H promised with an oath to give

Notes:

This is a boastful oath for the benefit of those who were present. Mark's gospel says he promised up to half of his kingdom.

her whatever she might ask.

Scriptures:

8 So she, having been prompted by her

Notes:

mother, said, "Give me John^J the Baptist's

head here on a platter."

Scriptures:

^H
9 And the king was sorry; nevertheless,

Notes:

Herod went against what his conscience told him was true and for the sake of pride and lust wounded his own soul deeply.

because of the oaths and because of those

^H
who sat with him, he commanded *it* to be

given to *her*.

Scriptures:

^H ^J
10 So he sent and had John beheaded in

Notes:

prison.

Scriptures:

11 And his^J head was brought on a platter and

given to the girl, and she brought *it* to her

mother.

Notes:

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 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.

Scriptures:

12 Then his^J disciples came and took away the

body and buried it, and went and told Jesus⁺.

Notes:

13 When Jesus heard [†]it, [†]He departed from

there by boat to a deserted [†]place by Himself.

G2048 – desolate
place

But when the multitudes [†]heard it, [†]they

followed [†]Him on foot from the cities.

Notes:

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.

14 And when Jesus went out He saw a great

multitude; and

He was moved with compassion for them,

G4697 - have pity on, have one's heart go out to someone. - "to be deeply moved (bowels) v. - to be affected deeply in one's inner being, especially in that aspect (the bowels) characterized by sympathy and compassion."

and healed their sick.

Notes:

'moved with compassion' - one of the traits of Christlikeness is considering other's needs before your own. 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. Jesus knew everything that was coming to Him and He wanted some time alone with the Father beforehand. John's death may have brought all that was coming more into Christ's thoughts.

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.

Instead of solitude, Jesus is swamped by a sea of needy humans. Jesus is trying to do something immensely spiritual, but He is interrupted by the multitudes. One of my struggles in the past was when I was interrupted while trying to prepare for a sermon. It took me a while to realize that those interruptions were factored into God's plan for my week. They weren't interruptions, they were opportunities to feel, think, and act like Christ. I still must resist the temptation to be annoyed by interruptions, but I am doing much better.

'compassion' - His heart went out to them. True compassion is always more than just what we feel - it also involves what we do.

"Jesus personified the love of God, not only by His death at Calvary but by His deeds of compassion." (Augsburger, 1982) page 173

15 When it was evening, His disciples came to

Notes:

Jesus had come to this desolate place to be alone and then spends the whole day healing people. He is probably still doing when the disciples come to Him to send the multitudes away.

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."

Scriptures:

16 But Jesus said to them, "They do not need

Notes:

to go away. You give them something to eat."

Scriptures:

17 And they said to Him, "We have here only

Notes:

five loaves and two fish."

Scriptures:

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

Notes:

Scriptures:

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

G2127 – to give
thanks.

loaves to the disciples^(L2); and the disciples^(L2) gave

to the multitudes^{1.1}.

Notes:

This miracle is recorded in all four gospels.

Jesus had come in His humanity to the desolate place so that he could be alone. Then first with the marathon of healings, and 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 full God and perfectly holy.

“A little with God is more than much without Him.” (Augsburger, 1982) page 177

Scriptures:

20 So they all ate and were filled, and they

Notes:

took up twelve baskets full of the fragments

that remained.

Scriptures:

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.

21 Now those who had eaten were about five

Notes:

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).

thousand men, besides women and children.

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). 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!

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