

## Matthew 14

But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.” Matthew 14:16

PRAYER: Father, as I study Matthew 14, please teach me to “give them something to eat.” Teach me to be like Peter and cry out, call out, and come out of my boat in the midst of my dark night.

Journal your prayer here:

PREVIEW: In Matthew 14, we’ll learn from Jesus’ response to the murder of John the Baptist, and how we can also “give them something to eat.” We’ll learn from Peter as he cried out, called out, and came out in the midst of the dark night.

### Matthew 14 Outline:

Present Response to Jesus - Read Matthew 14:1-2

Account of the Murder of John the Baptist - Read Matthew 14:3-12

Jesus Feeds 5,000 - Read Matthew 14:13-21

Jesus Walks on Water - Read Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus Heals Many - Read Matthew 14:34-36

PREPARE: Get ready to learn about Jesus’ compassion and His desire to spend time alone with the Father. Learn how we too ought to “give them something to eat” and be like Peter and cry out, call out, and come out. Learn to be like the men of Gennesaret and bring others to Jesus.

## Present Response to Jesus - Read Matthew 14:1-2

Matthew 14:1-2 (NKJV)

1 At that time Herod the tetrarch 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.”

1. A tetrarch is a ruler of a fourth part of a region. Herod Antipas was one of several sons of Herod the Great. When Herod the Great died, his kingdom was divided among his four sons. Herod Antipas ruled over Galilee and Perea. What did Herod hear and what was his response to what he heard (vv. 1-2)? (See also Mark 6:14-16 and Luke 9:7-9.)

## Account of the Murder of John the Baptist - Read Matthew 14:3-12

Matthew 14:3-12 (NKJV)

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.

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

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

6 But when Herod’s birthday was celebrated, the daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herod.

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; 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.

2. What did Herod do to John (v.3)?

3. Why did Herod do this to John (v. 4)?

4. PROPOUND: What did Herod know about John? (See Mark 6:20.)

5. During Herod's birthday party, Herodias' daughter danced, most likely in a very lascivious manner. What was Herod's response to her dance (vv. 6-7)? (See also Mark 6:23.) Who else watched this dance and heard Herod's response? (See Mark 6:21.)

6. What did Herodias' daughter ask for and why (v.8)? (See also Mark 6:24.)

7. What was Herod's response to Herodias's daughter's request (v. 9)? (See also Mark 6:26.)

8. PROPOUND: Read 2 Corinthians 7:10. What does the sorrow of the world produce?

9. PRODUCE: Herodias coached her daughter to do what was evil. What should godly parents coach their children to do? (See Ephesians 6:4.)

10. PROCEED: When John's disciples found out he had been murdered by Herod, what did they do? How should we do likewise when we experience extremely difficult situations (Matthew 14:12)?

## Jesus Feeds 5,000 - Read Matthew 14:13-21

Matthew 14:13-21 (NKJV)

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

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."

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

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.

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

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

11. PRACTICE: When Jesus heard the news of John's beheading, what was His response (Matthew 14:13; 23)? How should we do the same when we experience difficult circumstances in our lives?

12. Jesus intended to be alone (v. 13) and pray (v.23). However, the multitudes heard about it and followed Him on foot. Despite His intention to be alone, what was Jesus's response to seeing the multitudes (v. 14)?

13. PROPOUND: Read Mark's account of this incident in Mark 6:32-34. How did Mark describe the multitude and what did Jesus do for them?

14. Jesus spent the day teaching, preaching, and healing the multitudes. (v. 15). In the evening, the disciples told Him to send the multitudes away so they could eat. What was Jesus' response to them (v. 16)?



15. PROCLAIM: Jesus told His disciples, “You give them something to eat” (Matthew 14:16). Share with the group how this is something we ought to be doing in our lives as one of Jesus’ disciples.

16. What was the disciples’ response to Jesus’ response (v. 17)? (See also Mark 6:37.)

17. PROPOUND: Do you think the disciples could have obeyed Jesus’ command and given the multitudes something to eat?

18. What did Jesus do with the five loaves and two fish (v. 19)?

19. What was the result of what Jesus did with the five loaves and two fish (v. 20)?

20. Approximately how many were in the multitude (v. 21)?

21. PROPOUND: How many baskets full of fragments were left over (v. 20)? How many disciples were there? Is there any significance to this? (See Matthew 16:9.)

22. PROTECT: Imagine the 12 disciples each holding a basketful of leftover bread and thousands of stuffed people sitting on the grass. Think about what lesson(s) they should have learned from this miracle. (See also Matthew 16:9 and 14:33.)

## Jesus Walks on Water - Read Matthew 14:22-33

Matthew 14:22-33 (NKJV)

22 Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, 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.

24 But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

25 Now in the fourth watch of the night 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 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, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!”

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

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.”

23. Once the feeding of the multitudes was complete, what did Jesus tell His disciples to do (v. 22)?

24. Jesus sent His disciples off in the boat and the multitudes back to their homes. Why (v. 23)? (See also Matthew 14:13.)

25. PROMOTE: Jesus intended to go be alone (v. 13), but the multitudes intercepted Him. After a day of teaching and healing the multitudes, He now *made* the disciples get into a boat and He *made* the multitudes go to their homes, so He could be alone and pray (v. 23). How is *making* time to spend with the Father a discipline we ought to *make* happen in our lives?

26. According to Roman reckoning, the night was divided into four watches: (1) 6-9 pm, (2) 9 pm-12 am, (3) 12 am-3 am, (4) 3 am-6 am. What time was it (v.25) and where were the disciples (v. 24)?

27. What did the disciples think they saw during the fourth watch of the night while battling the contrary winds and waves (v. 26)? What was their response to what they thought they saw?

28. Jesus came to the disciples in the midst of their dark night. What was His response to the fearful disciples (v. 27)? How has Jesus come to you during a stormy time?

29. What was Peter's answer and the action that he took to go to Jesus (vv. 28-29)?

30. PROPOUND: In the midst of the dark night, with contrary winds and waves tossing him about, Peter stepped out of the boat to go to Jesus. How is this action something we also need to do when we're in a difficult and dark situation in life?

31. What did Peter see after he stepped out of the boat? What was his response to what he saw? What did he do about what he saw (v. 30)?

32. What did Jesus do for Peter? What did Jesus say to Peter (v. 31)? How will the Lord do this for us when we step out in faith? (See Psalm 37:23-24; 145:14.)

33. Where was the boat located when Peter and Jesus got back into the boat (v. 24)? What happened when Jesus got into the boat (v. 32)? (See also John 6:21.)

34. What did the disciples do after their experience in the midst of the dark night (v. 33)?

35. What did the disciples proclaim after their experience in the midst of the dark night (v. 33)?

36. PROPOUND: How should we follow the example of what the disciples did once Jesus got into their boat?

## Jesus Heals Many - Read Matthew 14:34-36

Matthew 14:34-36 (NKJV)

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

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.

37. Gennesaret is across the Sea of Galilee from the Decapolis. In Mark 5:20-21, “Jesus had crossed over again by boat to the other side.” It is possible that He was in Gennesaret when the woman with the flow of blood for 12 years (Mark 5:25) was healed. How was she healed? (See Matthew 9:20.)

38. When Jesus crossed over the sea, He and His disciples came to the land of Gennesaret (v. 34), and the men of that place recognized Him (v. 35). Why might they have recognized Him?

39. What did the men of that place go and do (v. 35)?

40. What did the men of that place beg Jesus to allow (v. 36)? Why did they beg for that specific thing?

41. What became of those who touched the hem of Jesus' garment (v. 36)?

42. How should we do the same for those we know who are spiritually sick?

**PROCESS:** Review what you've learned in Matthew 14. Highlight what the Lord has shown you and share it with the group.

**PRAY:** Father, thank You for the wonderful life lessons I've learned from studying Matthew 14. Please remind me of them when I need to put them into practice.

Journal your prayer here: