

LESSON 17: MATTHEW 14

DECEMBER 3, 2008

OVERVIEW

- . Death of John the Baptist – Matthew 14:1-12
- . Five Thousand Fed – Matthew 14:13-21
- . The Walk of Jesus and Peter on the Water – Matthew 14:22-36

THE DEATH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST – MATTHEW 14:1-12

- . Matthew introduces at this point, the drama of John the Baptist's death, to reveal the growing antagonism in high places against Jesus and his followers
- . Herod Antipas
 - . Son of Herod the Great, who ordered the murder of the Bethlehem infants – Matthew 2
 - . Tetrarch – ruler of Galilee
 - . Liked to listen to John – Mark 6:20
- . Herodias
 - . Wife of Herod's brother, Philip, who lived in Rome
 - . Women of loose morals
- . Salome
 - . Daughter of Herodias
 - . Sixteen or Seventeen at the time she danced for Herod
- . Herod's guilty conscience caused him to wonder whether God had raised the murdered John the Baptist – Matthew 14:2
- . The story of John the Baptists death is a terrifying illustration of how the refusal to repent from known sin leads to even greater sin
 - . Herod sinned and then refused to own his sin and repent when God sent John to him – Matthew 14:4-5

THE FEEDING OF THE FIVE THOUSAND – MATTHEW 14:13-21

- . Upon hearing of John's death, Jesus and his disciples sailed from the west bank of the Sea of Galilee over to the east, to a more remote spot
 - . Their intention was to rest and get away from the crowds
 - . Yet, the crowds followed them

- . The disciples wanted to send these people away, but Jesus saw it as a call to minister
 - . He saw their need and felt mercy
 - . After healing the sick, he didn't want to send them away hungry
- . Jesus tests the disciples
 - . He asks Philip how they can feed them – John 6:5
 - . Jesus was looking for human cooperation to be combined with God's divine power
 - . When we offer to share what we have, out of total obedience, God multiplies the fruit several times that
 - . When we are confronted with a need, who do we turn to?
- . Jesus uses this opportunity to demonstrate to the disciples that he is the Messiah
 - . In this story, Jesus' main aim is to serve the people and teach the disciples
 - . Jesus also demonstrates that we should never waste God's gifts
- . After this event, Jesus retreats to a hillside to pray
 - . After our needs have been met, do we remember the provider?
- . Many of the people fed wanted material bread, but not the Bread of Life – John 6:22-27

JESUS AND PETER WALK ON WATER – MATTHEW 14:22-36

- . Jesus sends the disciples ahead of Him, in the boat, and later sees them straining in the storm – Mark 6:47-48
 - . In the strength of his communion with God, and in tender love for his disciples, He walks out on the water to meet them
 - . Jesus wants to help his disciples and at the same time show that He is the Messiah – Matthew 14:32-33
- . Jesus calls Peter out of the boat and Peter walks on water
 - . Jesus wants to demonstrate to Peter and all the disciples the power that can be derived by trusting in Him.
 - . While Peter keeps his eyes on the Lord he is able to accomplish the supernatural
 - . When Peter takes his eyes off the Lord, he starts to sink
- . Christ calls us to leave our comfort zone and venture into unknown territory and to trust Him
 - . When we do, He won't let us sink

NEXT LESSON: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2008 - MATTHEW 15