

Matthew Chapter 14

Matthew 14:1

At that time Herod the tetrach heard of the fame of Jesus.

Herod Antipas, the son of Herod the Great, ruler of Galilee and Perea heard about the miracle, signs and wonders Jesus was performing. Jesus didn't publicize or make announcements of who He was or what he could do. He demonstrated the anointing through the power of the Holy Spirit and His heritage of being the Son of God.

Matthew 14:2

And said unto his servants, This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead; and there are mighty works do show forth themselves in him.

Herod's guilty conscience over John's death caused him to think Jesus was John Baptist whom he assumed had risen from the dead. Herod acknowledged that there were supernatural powers working in Jesus. Herod had enough sense to know the powers he saw being manifested through Jesus had to be from God because no mere man had that kind of power.

Matthew 14:3

For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias's sake.



Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Herod married his brother's wife, this is why John rebuked him because it was unlawful according to Jewish custom for a man to have his brother's wife unless he was dead. John rebuked him even though he was a king. He didn't ignore Herod's sin because he was king, but informed him of his sin. John didn't care whether or not Herod was offended, he told him the law of God. Yes, we do suppose to care if we offend people because of our emotions or character, but when it comes to the word of God, we should tell them in a loving way, but yet let them know the wages of sin is death.

Matthew 14:4

For John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee to have her.

Herodias was the daughter of Aristobulus. She was first married to Herod Philip. Then she married Phillip's brother Herod Antipas. When she married Antipas, he was already married. Herodias remarriage was incestuous as well as adulterous. John rebuked King Antipas for marrying his brother's wife. According to God's law, Herodias wasn't to marry her ex-

husband's brother neither was she to remarry unless her spouse was deceased or committed adultery. Although Herod wasn't a Jewish, the scripture let us know that whether Jew or Gentile, we're to acknowledge and submit ourselves to the laws of God. The bible is our instruction manual and it's for every nation and denomination.

Matthew 14:5

And when he would have put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet.

It wasn't lawful for anyone to just start talking to the king without given permission. John was speaking without permission and he was rebuking Herod for the sin he was committing. Herod would have executed him, but he was afraid it may have been a riot because the people referenced John as a prophet. In Old and New Testament time when a man or woman

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said they were a man or woman of God they truly were, they lived a life style that represented Jesus, the anointing was in their life. It wasn't a title, but the anointing.

Matthew 14:6

But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod.

It wasn't normal for the king or queen's daughter to dance before guest, most likely Herodias prompted her daughter to do so. Scholars states the dance was provocatively enticing that please the drunken Herod.

Matthew 14:7

Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask. Herod should have asked what was her desire before making a promise he would be sorry of. Herod probably never thought she would ask for John Baptist head, unknowingly she had been prompt by her mother.

Matthew 14:8

And she being before instructed of her mother, said give me here John Baptist's head in a charger.

It appears Herod's oak was prior to her dancing, because why would he make an oath after she danced? Since this wasn't the usual for a queen's daughter, the oath must have been made prior to her dancing to get her to dance.

Matthew 14:9

And the king was sorry, nevertheless for the oath's sake, and them, which sat with him at meat, he commanded it to be given her.

A promised made rashly without inquiring what the queen's daughter wanted prior to her dancing cost a man's life. Herod had to keep his word because of the oath he so rashly

made to the queen's daughter as well as the oath he made before his guest. King Herod probably didn't want it to seem like he wasn't a man of his word to his guest neither did he have enough righteousness in him to do the right thing. As Christians we should never let anyone cause us to choose wrong over right.

Matthew 14:10

And he sent and beheaded John in the prison.

Herod was more concerned of his reputation rather than a man's life. He was the king he could have said no. When we begin to care about what people will say or do, we usually don't follow the instructions God has given us. Let us be concerned about how God feels about us and less concerned about people.

Matthew 14:11

And his head was brought in a charger and given to the damsel, and she brought it to her mother. Herodias daughter brought the head of John to her mother as a trophy of the victories of her malice and revenge. She probably was making plans to get her revenge from the day John Baptist rebuked Herod. Don't be fooled people aren't going to like you speaking the truth, they would rather hear a lie rather than the truth.

Matthew 14:12

And his disciples took up the body and buried it, and went and told Jesus.

It had to be a sad occasion for the disciples to know one of their fellow workers was beheaded. If they were weak in the faith some of them may have turned away from the faith and would have been afraid to minister the word of God. As Christians we can't be afraid of people, whatever God lead us to tell them, we must tell them and know that God is with us. God always prepare the heart of the person prior to having us to witness or minister to them. If the unktion is from God the person will

receive what God will have you to minister.

Matthew 14:13

And when Jesus heard of it, he departed thence to a ship into a desert place apart, and when the people had heard thereof they followed him on foot out of the cities.

After hearing what had happened to John, Jesus left the city. He went off to be by Himself. Sometimes we have leave the presence of others to get by ourselves with the Father. He knew where His strength came from, He knew who could strengthen Him while He was in grief over the lost of one of His disciples. It pays to spend time with the Father. It doesn't mean the problem will be solved, but He will give you the strength to go on until He deliver you.

Matthew 14:14

And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick. When Jesus stepped from the boat, a multitude followed Him, bringing and carrying the sick. They had faith in the Son of God.

Matthew 14:15

And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying. This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals (food).

It was getting late and the place where they were didn't have any food. The disciples asked Jesus to send them away to get food.

Matthew 14:16

But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat.

Jesus told them, it wasn't necessary to send them away, to feed them of what they had.

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Matthew 14:17

And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes.

The disciples informed them, they didn't have enough to feed the crowd, they only had five loaves of bread and two fishes.

Matthew 14:18

He said, Bring them hither to me.

The disciples was looking at the natural instead of focusing on Jesus. When Jesus told them to feed them after knowing they only had a certain amount should have made them think, Jesus was going to provide the need.

Matthew 14:19

And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake and gave the loaves to this disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

What was originally given wouldn't have been enough to feed five thousands people, but in the hands of Jesus he made a little much. Jesus can take nothing and make it something. Just as He increased the food to feed the crowd, He can take the small amount we have and increase it to pay every creditor and bill and still have money left over.

Matthew 14:20

And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.

Jesus performed a miracle. What was impossible with man was possible with God. As we give our tithes and offerings, the small amount of money we have, when we place it in the Master's hand, He can multiply it. He promised if we follow His instructions, He would rebuke the devourer.

Matthew 14:21

And they that had eaten were about five thousands.

The scripture states there were 5,000 men present, plus women and children, so the total number of people Jesus fed could have could have been ten thousands or more with five loaves and two fishes. No other god or deity people worship can perform miracles as the Living God. No other god has been known to do miracles like Jesus and His Father.

Matthew 14:22

And straightway Jesus constrained (compelled) his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitude away.

Jesus instructed the disciples to get into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake while He sent the people home. The disciples had to be on one accord with the Lord, following His instructions. Just as the disciples had to follow Jesus instructions, we too must be willing and ready to follow His instructions.

Matthew 14:23

And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart (by himself) to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

Seeking solitude was an important priority to Jesus, he made room in his busy schedule to spend time with the Father. Although He was the Son of God He knew He had to spend time in prayer and hear from the Father. We cannot be sensitive to the Father's voice when He's speaking to us whether its through our spirit or some other avenue if we don't take the time to spend with Him in prayer and reading His word. God speaks through His word.

Matthew 14:24

But the ship was now in the midst (middle) of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.

The disciples were on their way to the other side of the lake while Jesus was in the mountain praying. In the process of going to the other side of the lake they encountered a strong wind tossing them in the waves. They had just finished ministering and feeding the people both physical and spiritual food and the adversary was upset. Sometimes Christians think because they 're doing a work for the Lord Satan will not bother them, but that's when Satan will attack you when you're doing a work for the Lord. As long as we're in this world, trials, tribulations and suffering will come.

Matthew 14: 25

And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

The fourth watch was from 3:00am to 6:00am or sunrise. Jesus went to them at a time they didn't expect Him. Always be in expectation waiting for Jesus to show up in your situation and circumstance. No matter how long you've been waiting, keep on waiting for the Lord and know that no matter how late it is, He will show up.

Matthew 14:26

And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit (ghost); and they cried out for fear.

Because they weren't expecting Jesus they assumed they were seeing a ghost and were afraid. Fear is the opposite of faith. When fear comes it satanic, its not of God. God does not give us fear, but love and power and a sound mind. Sound mind indicating faith, knowing the power of God. When Jesus chose them He gave them power but instead of them using the power, they were afraid of what they thought was a spirit.

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Matthew 14:27

But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. Jesus spoke to them at once, probably as soon as He heard them crying out and assured them, it was Him, not to be afraid. Sometimes when we're going through different test, we're afraid, and because of fear, we can't hear Jesus speaking to us, telling us it's Him walking with us, be not afraid. When we're in fear or worried we cannot hear the voice of God speaking. Sometimes we think it's the devil the reason we're going through the things we do, but sometimes it's Jesus trying to take us to a higher height in the spirit. Faith comes by hearing the word of God and by test and trials.

Matthew 14:28

And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou (you), bid me come unto thee on the water.

Peter was the out spoken one, the others may have been to afraid to say anything. Peter was testing the spirit to see whether or not it was Jesus. Every voice we hear isn't the voice of the Lord. We need to be able to discern the voice of the Lord, Satan and our own spirit.

Matthew 14:29

And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

When Peter first stepped out the boat his mind and eyes were on Jesus. It didn't matter about the wind and waves, He had placed his faith in Jesus. God promised He would keep us in perfect peace when our minds is stayed on Him. In other words, we place our faith and trust in Him no matter what the circumstance

or situation maybe, we know that He is well able to deliver us from the hands of the enemy. All spirits must come subject when Jesus speaks.

Matthew 14:30

But when he saw the wind boisterous (violent) he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

When Peter took his focus off of Jesus he begin to sink and became afraid. The worst thing one can do is focus on the problem at hand instead of focusing on the one that can solve the problem. There is a difference between denial and focusing on the problem. Denial is saying there's nothing wrong, not focusing on the problem is knowing the problem is there, but you can't let the problem become your faith. Whatever you keep your focus on is where your faith is. We can either have positive or negative faith. Faith isn't like electricity where negative and positive works together; with spiritual faith whether negative or positive it works alone.

Matthew 14:31

And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

Jesus knew where Peter's faith was, his faith was in the wind, his belief was because of the force of the wind, he was going to sink. Our faith will either produce positive or negative reaction, either one, you will receive the results of your faith.

Matthew 14:32

And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.

This could have been a trying of Peter's faith or a Satanic interfer-

ence. As soon as they stepped in the boat, the wind stopped. As violent as the wind was blowing it wouldn't have stopped as soon as they stepped into the boat, with the wind being as high it was; it would have to have gradually came to an end. It wouldn't have stopped as suddenly as it did. Something was happening spiritually either godly or ungodly. It didn't say Jesus spoke to the wind and it ceased. Peter started off in faith and ended up in doubt because he begin to look at the situation instead of looking to Jesus. If it was demonic, Peter lost his faith, but he still came out with the victory because he didn't sink. Jesus was there to deliver him. Jesus will never let us enter into a storm and not be there to bring us out. As surely as there was a door open for us to enter, there will also be one for us to exit.

Matthew 14>33

Then they that were in the ship came and worshiped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

Once the others saw that it was Jesus and not a spirit, they worship Him as the Son of God. They knew a man couldn't have walked on the water. Too many times we get caught up on titles and positions. God is looking for someone to show Him self strong in. Every man and woman God used in the Bible went through many test and trials. The Bible states those that know their God will do great exploit. We can't be slipping and dipping and falling in sin. Neither can we be partially in God and in the world. We can't serve both and be used by God.

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Neither can we forsake ourselves in prayer, fasting, reading and studying the word of God and think God will use us. In dealing with people we must be sensitive to the Spirit of God. We must have the anointing of God within us to have authority over demonic spirits. We don't want the spirits telling us as they did the seven sons that tried to exorcist an evil spirit without knowledge or the anointing and the spirit spoke to them and said Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?

Matthew 14:35

And when the men of that place had knowledge of him, they sent out into all the country round about, and brought unto him all that were diseased.

The people recognized Jesus was a healer. They had faith that Jesus could heal their love ones and neighbors. Sometimes we must have faith for others to be healed other than our love ones. The people of that country brought everyone that was in need of physical healing. We should believe Jesus for their physical healing, but also their spiritual healing.

Matthew 14:36

And besought (begged) him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole (well). These people must have heard about Him healing the woman that had an issue of blood for twelve years and when she touched the hem of His garment she was healed. They too requested to touch the hem of His garment and was healed. In order to please God we must have faith, believe that He is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him, not when the bills, rent, mort-

gage needs to be paid, when we need peace in the home, or looking for a spouse. We should seek the Lord daily in prayer, and reading the word of God. The more we fellowship with Him the more, we will know of Him.

We must learn how to fellowship with the Father other than at church. With some of us, God doesn't hear our voice until we're at church or in trouble. We will never know our inheritance if we don't learn how to read the instruction manual. The Bible teaches us of the things we can receive of God and the things we don't have to receive from Satan, but if we don't take the time to read, we will never know. We will be forever learning and never coming to the knowledge of truth.

My prayer is for everyone naming and claiming the name of Jesus to take time out daily and pray. Your prayer don't have to be twenty or thirty minutes, if you can pray for five minutes or ten minutes at least that is a start and as you dedicate yourself you will begin to experience hearing and knowing the voice of God. You will know when you're in His presence. Some Christians have been saved for years, but have never experienced the presence of God because they will not take the time to fellowship with Him. Read a chapter a day and meditate on it until it get into your memory and spirit. Don't wait on the minister to teach you, let the Holy Spirit teach you so that you will know if the minister is actually teaching the word of God!

The world is full of false doctrine, and we must be able to discern the truth from the false.

Every Christian is held responsible for taking the time to read and study the word of God. The truth will set you free, the false will send you to the lake of fire. Get to know your insurance policy, it will give you in detail what to expect when its time to cash it in; the difference from this insurance policy and the world insurance policy—you will be the one receiving the benefits instead of your relatives. What you put in it, is what you will get out of it!

In order for our spirit, soul, mind and body to preserved blameless before God, we must present ourselves to God daily, submitting our entire being to Him, determined to be subject to His word. When we decide in our hearts we will be faithful, everything in us will say yes!

God bless you! Be encouraged. Know that you have the victory through Jesus Christ, the Lord of Host.

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