



30: A Day To Remember (Matthew 14:13-36)

Have you ever had a day to remember...a moments forever burned into your memory - a day full of incredible, wonderful surprises...a day where God's Presence and power was so evident that you finished the day worn out, but filled up? Today we get a glimpse of one of those unforgettable days for the disciples of Jesus.

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teachingnotes

Compassionate Jesus

Matthew 14:12-14 (NIV) John's disciples came and took his body and buried it. **Then they went and told Jesus.** When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, **he had compassion on them and healed their sick.**

Jesus was emotionally drained and needed time away, but when **a large crowd** of needy people came to Him, Jesus **had compassion on them and healed their sick.** This wasn't something that took a few minutes, but a few hours. Mark and Luke add that Jesus taught them many things about the kingdom of God (Mk 6:34; Lk 9:11).

Who's Making Dinner?

Matthew 14:15-21 (NIV) As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food." Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

"We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. "Bring them here to me," he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. **They all ate and were satisfied**, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

John's gospel tells us this food was "five **small** barley loaves and two **small** fish" belonging to a boy (Jn 6:9), probably not enough to satisfy one grown man. Read the Old Testament story about a man brought *20 loaves of barley bread to the prophet Elisha* for 100 hungry men & the miracle that followed (2 Kings 4:42-44).

Jesus starts - *NOT with 20 loaves of barley bread*, but with a boy's lunch, to try to distribute to 5,000+ people. Jesus had his disciples divide them into groups of 50 (Lk 9:14). If **women and children** were included in the number, scholars assume there could have been 10,000-25,000 people! Thousands **ate and were satisfied**. The **twelve basketfuls left over**, left one for each of Jesus' apostles and was likely symbolic of Jesus providing for the 12 tribes of Israel.

This was a day to Remember! - a day to see that Jesus can take what little we have and turn it into something that impacts many, many more.

John 6:14 (NIV) After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is **the Prophet** who is to come into the world."

Hebrew people had awaited **the prophet** like Moses, one who God used to release the Israelites from slavery & provide for them in the wilderness for 40 years until they finally reached and owned the land now known as Israel. Some wondered if John the Baptist was "**the prophet**" (Jn 1:21, 25) and now all eyes shift to Jesus (Jn 6:14; 7:40).

Deuteronomy 18:18-19 (NIV) I will raise up for them **a prophet like you** from among their fellow Israelites, and **I will put my words in his mouth.** He will tell them everything I command him. I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that **the prophet** speaks in **my name.**

Jesus is the "prophet like Moses" who speaks the words of God and feeds the people in the wilderness. And now, they want to make Jesus king, hoping He would release them from their Roman captors. But that wasn't the plan of Jesus.

John 6:15 (NIV) **Jesus**, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, **withdrew again to a mountain by himself.**

Is it any wonder why they wanted to make Jesus King? Many are aware of the many things Jesus had done.

- Jesus healed many different diseases & kicked demons out of people (Mt 4:24, 12:22). Healed a woman of a blood disease she had for 12 years (Mt 9:20-22), & even raised a little girl from the dead (Mt 9:18, 23-26). Jesus had even caused the blind to see and the mute to speak! (Mt 9:27-30, 9:32-33, 12:22).
- And now the feeding of the 5000+!!!!

Jesus had to be the long awaited prophet & Messianic King! But Jesus wouldn't allow them to **make him king by force.** Jesus would not wear the CROWN before He had bear the CROSS.

Matthew 14:22-23a (NIV) Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, **he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray.**

If Jesus, God in skin, needed to take time by himself **to pray**, maybe we need to do the same.

Matthew 14:23b-24 (NIV) Later that night, He was there alone, and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

The disciples had previously experienced Jesus speaking to the wind and waves and all became calm. They were so amazed, asking, "*What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!*" (Mt 8:23-27). But this time...Jesus isn't in the boat with them.

An Old Testament Song

Psalms 107:23-30 (LEB) *Those who* went down to the sea in ships, doing business on *the* high seas; they saw the works of Yahweh, and his wonderful deeds in *the* deep. For he spoke and raised up a stormy wind, and it whipped up its waves. They rose to the heavens; they plunged to *the* depths. Their soul melted in their calamity. They reeled and staggered like a drunkard, and they were at their wits' end. Then they cried out to Yahweh in their trouble, and **He brought them out of their distresses. He made *the* storm be still and their waves became calm.** Then they were glad because they grew silent, so He guided them to their desired harbor.

But this time Jesus isn't on the boat, but Jesus amazes His disciples once again.

Walking on Water

Matthew 14:25-27 (NIV) Shortly before dawn [Greek term referring to 3-6am] **Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.** When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "**Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.**"

Shortly before dawn is literally "the fourth watch" (ESV, NAS), between 3-6am.¹ The disciples of Jesus had been out on the lake all night, trying to make their way across. When the **disciples** see **Jesus**, they are suddenly were more afraid of JESUS than they were of the waves & wind!

"**Take courage! I AM** [literal Greek]. **Don't be afraid.**" English speaking translators fill in the gap with "It is I" (NET, ESV, NIV, CSB) or "I am [here]" (NLT).

- "**I AM**" is a claim Jesus made about Himself (Jn 8:58), a phrase used of God in Ex 3:14.

Matthew 14:28-31 (NIV) "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

❓ Would YOU have stepped out of the boat? Nobody else did.

For a few brief moments, he was trusting Jesus and doing what was normally impossible. But **Simon Peter simply took his eyes off of Jesus**, looked at the scary circumstances surrounding him, got scared, and sunk.

- 🕒 We too have taken our eyes off of Jesus and put them on our the circumstances surrounding us and fighting for our attention - persecution, temptation, sickness, financial strain, broken relationships.

Oh that we would learn where to turn when the storms bear down on us!

¹ Leon Morris, The Gospel according to Matthew, The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1992), 381-382.

Jesus - Worthy of Worship

Matthew 14:32-33 (NIV) And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat **worshiped him**, saying, "**Truly you are the Son of God.**"

The disciples of Jesus *knew one thing* - Jesus was more than just a prophet & miracle worker.

They bowed before Him and **worshiped him** vocalizing what they are thinking, "**You are the Son of God.**"

Job 9:8 (NIV) He alone stretches out the heavens and **treads on the waves of the sea.**

Jesus Keeps Serving

Matthew 14:34-36 (NIV) When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret. And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to him and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and **all who touched it were healed.**

May we be the ones who *learn where to turn BEFORE tough times come.*

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), **Caleb** (864-315-8015), **Gary** (850-673-2507), **Betty** (850-973-3266), or another follower of Jesus soon!

* Or call our **deacons & wives: Alan & Christy Androski** (850-464-1428), **Steve & Debbie Bass** (850-673-7952), **Tim & Joni Hughey** (850-464-1156), **Mark & Dot Mancil** (850-253-5405), **Boss & Amelia Mulkey** (850-464-6717), or **Tom & Martha Waddail** (850-973-0011).

discussionquestions

Take some time to discuss these questions with your family, friends, or group.

1. **Read Matthew 14:12-14.** Realizing that Jesus tried to find a quiet place after hearing of John's death, what does the willingness of Jesus to teach and heal most of the day tell you about Him and His heart for others?
2. **Read 2 Kings 4:42-44 & Matthew 14:14-21.** How are these stories similar. Why is the story of Jesus feeding the people more remarkable than what Elisha did?
3. Read these passages (Mt 4:24; 9:20-22; 9:18, 23-26; 9:27-30, 32-33; 12:22). Then read **John 6:14-15** (referring to Jesus feeding the 5000+). Why did the Jewish crowd want to make Jesus king by force? Why wouldn't Jesus let this happen?
4. **Read Matthew 14:22-23a.** Why did Jesus feel the need to pray? Do you find it easy or difficult to make consistent time to pray? What might help someone grow in becoming more consistent in prayer?
5. **Read Matthew 14:24-33.** Have YOU ever been in a boat when the weather turned rough? If you were concerned, how did it impact your prayer life? What do we learn about Jesus & about our response to Him?
6. Why is it that so many people don't turn to Jesus until tough times come? How can Christians be tactical to care for neighbors experiencing tough times?
7. What challenged or encouraged you *most* from today's teaching?
8. What does God want YOU to do with what we studied today?
9. Share prayer needs and pray for one another.