

Matthew 14

Jesus

I. John the Baptist Beheaded

1 At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the report about Jesus ²and said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist; he **is risen from the dead**, and therefore these powers are at work in him."

- Haven't heard from John since Ch. 11

1. **Jesus older cousin:** John couldn't wait for Jesus to arrive...

Luke 1:41 ... when Elizabeth [pregnant with John met] Mary [pregnant with Jesus], that the babe [J the B] leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

2. **Propheesied 450 yrs. earlier:** Usher in Messiah

Malachi 3:1 "Behold, I send My messenger [J the B], ... he will prepare the way before Me.

John 1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose **name was John**. ⁷ This man came for a witness, to **bear witness of the Light**, that all through him might believe. ⁸ He was not that Light, but was sent to **bear witness** of that Light.

3. Greatest man that ever-lived till that time...

Matthew 11:11 "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist...

- Jesus cousin. Jesus friend. Jesus advocate:
 1. Behold the Lamb of God
 2. I am not worthy to tie His shoes
 3. I must decrease and He must increase

John beheaded by Herod...who is shaking in His boots after
Hearing reports about a new Holy Man in town

- **Power of guilt on mind...**

1. **Hears of Jesus power:** Must be John risen from dead
2. **Adding to his fear:** Jesus probably resembled John as cousins

- **Interesting:** John the Baptist is never recorded to have done any miracles
- Matthew recalls the murder of John...

³For Herod had laid hold of John and bound him, and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife. ⁴Because John had said to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her." ⁵ And although [Herod] wanted to put [John] to death, he **feared the multitude**, because they counted [John]

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.

- **Herod:** Edomite is a picture of the flesh
- Natural man is motivated his flesh, i.e. sin nature...
- Motivated; led around by...
 1. **Fear** ...of Man
 2. **Lust** ...of Pleasure
 3. **Pride** ...of Life...all taking unregenerate man in wrong direction
- **Herod:** Motivated by the Flesh/Intimidated by Fear of Man/Fear of Wife

We are not to be motivated/intimidated by anything but the Spirit of God

John 6:63 It is the **Spirit who gives life**; the flesh profits nothing.

Galatians 5:16... Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

- **Herod/Herodias:**
 1. Later accused treason/Banished Roman province of Gaul
 2. Both committed Suicide...

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

SUMMARY John the Baptist Beheaded

II. Feeding the Five Thousand How to Handle Loss

13 When Jesus heard [John had been killed], 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.

- **Jesus feels loss...**wants time by Himself

John 11:35 Jesus wept.

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season.

- Jesus Departs Nazareth to be alone but...

- Turns around to swarms of needy people

14 And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.

- Jesus Words/Actions reveal God's Heart toward humanity...
- **Agape progression...**
 1. Saw ...and was Moved
 2. Saw ...and felt Compassion [moves in the inward parts]
 3. Saw ...and Healed no matter how He felt. [BTW] **No one asked Him**

Jesus had come to find peace and quiet and loneliness; instead he found a vast crowd eagerly demanding what he could give. He might so easily have resented them. What right had they to invade his privacy with their continual demands? [Barclay]

- **We are to have the Mind of Christ...**

Philippians 2:3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the **interests of others.**

- **Jesus was the picture of Joy:** Joy is never found looking within/Pursuing Happiness
- **Joy:** Jesus/Others/You

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."

- **Did they/Do we...learn from watching Jesus?**
 1. They know He just lost His friend of 30+ years to violent death
 2. They know He was seeking quiet place to grieve when the multitudes came
 3. They know He just set aside His feelings/help/heal people
- Did they/do we learn from watching Jesus... our Rabbi

Jesus will continue to be their example of self-sacrifice all the way to the cross
E.g. Night before the crucifixion boys arguing who was greatest feel tickle on feet...

John 13:12 So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? 13 You **call Me Teacher and Lord**, and you say well, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

Obviously don't look at the WWJD bracelets
Send them away so we can get some sleep...

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.

- Jesus makes them sit on the Grass...sometimes the Lord will slow us down...

Psalm 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures...

Jesus took the little they had/blessed it
15000 Men, Women and Children fed from 5 Loaves and 2 Fish

1. God will use what little we have for His glory
2. **How to handle loss...** Loved one, job, circumstance, loss of way things always been

- **Learning from Jesus:** How to handle loss...

1. Jesus refused to sink into self-pity
2. Jesus refused to demand His way [the Father allowed the multitude]
3. Jesus chose to allow the Spirit to have control
4. Jesus chose to be moved/feel compassion/heal **even while hurting Himself**

We will not allow ourselves to sink into the depths of self even as we suffer/mourn the loss of the *way things have always been*. God has allowed this change in our world and so we seek the wisdom/empowerment of His Spirit. We will not allow our hearts to become hard to what we see/hear day to day but continue to be moved with/by compassion for others who have *no hope* ...even when we ourselves are hurting. There will be an end and there will be a new beginning...thus we will walk together in/through this with joy and peace far beyond/above what current circumstances are demanding of us knowing one thing can never be taken from us; the best thing...our Eternal hope with Jesus. [NJC]

- We know how it ends. We know where we came from and where we are going.

John 13:3 Jesus, knowing...that He had come from God and was going to God, [NIV **so He**] 4 rose from supper... [and washed the disciples' feet]

- **Mindset of Faith...**

1 Peter 4:19 ...let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

Galatians 6:9 ... let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

- **Joy:** Jesus, Others, You

SUMMARY Feeding the Five Thousand and How to Handle Loss

III. Jesus and Peter Walk on the Sea

22 Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He **sent the multitudes away.**

- **Jesus feeds multitude**

1. Immediately sends boys to other side in boat
2. Immediately sends the multitudes away? Why?

John 6:14 ... when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world." 15 Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and **take Him by force to make Him king**, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.

- Fat/happy crowd wanted to make Jesus their earthly king
- Sent disciples away because they would have agreed but...

Jesus is the **Savior** of this world... but He is the **King of another world**

John 18:36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight...but now My kingdom is **not from here.**"

- They wanted Him to conquer Rome. He came to conquer sin

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.

- Jesus heads to mountain BY HIMSELF TO PRAY. Waiting for this recharge

Now when evening came ... Jesus was alone there

Fellowship w/ Eternal Father on Mountain/Under the Stars

- Alone with the Father after knowing you served w/all your heart
- Vital to have alone time with God...Mary sat at Jesus feet. Jesus sits at the Father's

Jesus finally able to be alone after losing His friend...Boys on way to other side

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 [3-6 am] 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 [Jesus] said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he **walked on the water** to go to Jesus. 30 But when [Peter] 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.

v 29 ...when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water

- **Peter may have eventually sunk but...**

1. Peter did walk on water **because...**
2. Peter got out of the boat!

In order to walk on water, you have to get out of the boat!
A ship is safe in the Harbor...but that's not what a ship is made for

- **Staying comfortable** is not what we were made/created for...

1. We were made to trust Jesus even when it doesn't make sense
2. We were made to grow/go beyond what we/anyone else thinks we can
3. We were made to **get out of the boat...prove God out**

- Grow in knowledge of God's Word
- Go back to school after years
- Get back on the right path when no one thinks you can
- Have life go in completely different direction...**get out of the boat**

- How we picture Jesus demeanor is very important...how we think God thinks of us?
- **Peter, Oh you of little faith. Jesus smiling?**

Peter that was fantastic but I wanted to walk further with you
...I wanted to dance with you on the water

- Peter took his eyes off Jesus/focused on situation/circumstance/self...began to sink
- Peter prayed the shortest/bestest prayer...**Lord save me!**

Jesus stretched out His hand and caught Peter and raised him up
God wants to raise you up. He is for you...

Psalm 18:35 You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your right hand has held me up, Your gentleness has made me great. 36 You enlarged my path under me, So my feet did not slip. [You stoop down to make me great]

- **Peter went on to write 1st, 2nd Peter:** Great man of God. Pillar of Faith
- What is causing you to stay in the boat? Fear of man/fear of failure...

Fear knocked on the door... Faith answered and no one was there

Peter walked on water because Peter got out of the boat
What makes Jesus smile...Acting on Faith makes Jesus smile.

Hebrews 11:6 ...without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

- This is not a dress rehearsal!
- **Did Jesus smile?** We smile when we are pleased...He is pleased by faith

1. Man lowered through the roof to be healed
2. Peter getting out of the boat
3. You saying no to fear/failure and trusting in a Big God who is for you

With faith we can walk on water like Solid Rock
Both walk back on water to the boat...storm ceased...boys amazed

33 Then those who were in the boat came and **worshiped Him**, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

- Seeing His power over Creation they worshiped Him

Jesus accepted their Worship...because He was worthy of Worship

Colossians 1:16 For by [Jesus] 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 [Jesus] and for [Jesus]**. 17 And [Jesus] is before all things, and in [Jesus] all things consist. [Pronouns defined as per context]

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**.

- More long selfless joyful days. Makes for a good sleep.

Psalm 90:12 So **teach us to number our days**, That we may gain a heart of wisdom... **17** And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, And **establish the work of our hands** for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands.

SUMMARY Jesus and Peter walk on the Sea