

THE WAY OF THE  
*Kingdom*  
THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

“This is the one about whom it is written: ‘I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it.”

**Matthew 11:10-12**

<sup>1</sup> Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), <sup>2</sup> and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. <sup>3</sup> Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. <sup>4</sup> The Jewish Passover Festival was near. <sup>5</sup> When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” <sup>6</sup> He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. <sup>7</sup> Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!” <sup>8</sup> Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, <sup>9</sup> “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there).

<sup>11</sup> Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. <sup>12</sup> When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” <sup>13</sup> So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. <sup>14</sup> After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, “Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.” <sup>15</sup> Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

— **John 6:1-15**

NOTES/APPLICATION

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## Matthew 14:1-21

JTB: Mark 6:14-29 | Feeding 5,000: Mark 6:30-44, Luke 9:10-17 & John 6:1-15

<sup>1</sup> At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the reports about Jesus, <sup>2</sup> and he said to his attendants, “This is John the Baptist; he has risen from the dead! That is why miraculous powers are at work in him.” <sup>3</sup> Now Herod had arrested John and bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, <sup>4</sup> for John had been saying to him: “It is not lawful for you to have her.” <sup>5</sup> Herod wanted to kill John, but he was afraid of the people, because they considered John a prophet. <sup>6</sup> On Herod’s birthday the daughter of Herodias danced for the guests and pleased Herod so much <sup>7</sup> that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. <sup>8</sup> Prompted by her mother, she said, “Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist.” <sup>9</sup> The king was distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he ordered that her request be granted <sup>10</sup> and had John beheaded in the prison. <sup>11</sup> His head was brought in on a platter and given to the girl, who carried it to her mother. <sup>12</sup> John’s disciples came and took his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus.

<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. <sup>15</sup> 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.” <sup>16</sup> Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.” <sup>17</sup> “We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered. <sup>18</sup> “Bring them here to me,” he said. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. <sup>21</sup> The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.