

Rev. Dustin Daniels | River Bible Church
Matthew 14:34-36 | A Good Day For The Gospel
Sunday July 28, 2024

WELCOME:

- Please turn your Bibles to Matthew 14.
- Bibles in the back—our gift to you.
- Notes are in the foyer, so take them home with you.

REVIEW:

Today, we are going to wrap up Matthew chapter 14.

Keeping everything in context is vital because we study the Scripture so slowly.

So, let's briefly review what the Holy Spirit has taught us in this chapter.

Matthew 14 starts with the tragic, senseless murder of John the Baptizer.

John's disciples reported this tragedy to Jesus, and Jesus then withdrew from teaching, preaching, and healing to get away.

Jesus
He planned to take the 12 Disciples to grieve, pray, and minister to the 12.

But that didn't happen—because as Jesus and the 12 left, the crowds followed them.

So Jesus continued to teach and preach to the crowds—and then He performed the Miraculous Meal of feeding the 5,000. -v. 13.

The crowds were so impressed by this miracle that they tried to force Him to be their king.

v. 22
Jesus was having none of that—and sent the 12 away back to Capernaum—back home.

However, as they go home, a terrifying storm threatens their lives. V. 24

Jesus came to save them as only Jesus could—by walking on the water. V. 25

We also learned about courage and faltering faith from Peter. V. 29

Pause—it's important to see the feeding of the 5,000 and Jesus walking on the water through the lens of Christology.

Christology is the study of Jesus Christ through the union of His divine nature and His human nature.

Jesus is both truly divine & truly human.

It is due to both natures that Jesus is the unique Son of God, the Messiah/Savior (Deliverer), High Priest, Lord of lords, and King of kings.

As a man, Jesus had to be born of a virgin—to bypass human sin.

We are all born into sin - stained. (Ps. 51:5) - not Jesus,

So, within the very birth of Jesus, we see both his human and divine natures.

As a human being, Jesus had to live a perfect, sinless life.

Because of His perfection and sinlessness, Jesus is the only one qualified to make the atoning sacrifice for our sins.
↳ reconciliation

Why is Jesus the only one qualified?

Because it was a man who sinned.

Therefore, it had to be a man (the perfect man) to pay the price for sin.

Jesus also had to be divine because only God the Son can withstand God the Father's wrath on sin and still live.

We also see Jesus' divinity through the resurrection and ascension.

All that to say this—the doctrine of Christology is essential at this point in our verse-by-verse study of Matthew.

It's important because Jesus is teaching the 12 Disciples that He is indeed God through the feeding of the 5,000 and by Him walking on the water.

If the 12 don't believe that Jesus is God, they will never fulfill their calling as Disciples and eventually Apostles—who will all die, except for John, for their faith in Jesus.

INTRODUCTION:

Today, Matthew summarizes what happens after the miracles of Jesus walking on the water and the Disciples confessing that He is the Son of God.

Matthew has provided summary verses before (Matt. 4:23-24, 8:16, 9:35, 14:14) and he'll do it again in 15:30-31.

We have much to learn from these summaries.

In today's passage, Jesus continues to teach the 12 Disciples that He is the Son of God through more miraculous healings.

How many more we don't know because the passage doesn't say.

It implies a lot of miracles in a short time frame.

The crowd receives the added benefit of being miraculously healed, but keep in mind that miracles are not Jesus' primary focus.

Jesus' focus is on training the 12 Disciples, preparing them for ministry, and leaving no doubt in their minds that He is God who has come to save sinners.

So this is a good day for the Gospel.

And Jesus and the 12 need a good day.

But, as good as this day is, something is still desperately wrong. What is it? And how does it apply to your life today?

Let's find out!

Please stand for the reading and honoring of God's Word.

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 14:34— When they had crossed over, they came to shore at Gennesaret.

Matthew 14:35— When the men of that place recognized him, they alerted the whole vicinity and brought to him all who were sick.

Matthew 14:36— They begged him that they might only touch the end of his robe, and as many as touched it were healed.

These are the very words from the authoritative, inerrant, inspired, and infallible Word of Almighty God.

PRAY:

Lord my God,

I cried to you for help, and you healed me. (Psalm 30:2)

EXEGESIS:

Matthew 14:32—When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

Matthew 14:33—Then those in the boat worshiped him and said, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Matthew 14:34—When they had crossed over, they came to shore at Gennesaret.

Over the past two weeks, we have learned of four miracles studying the passage of Jesus walking on the water.

1. Jesus walked on the water.
2. Peter walked on the water.
3. The storm instantly stopped when Jesus and Peter got into the boat.
4. The 12 Disciples worshiped Jesus— and confessed that He is the Son of God.

And here, in verse 34, we see a fifth miracle, although we have to do some digging to see it.

John's Gospel says...

John 6:21—and at once the boat was at the shore where they were heading. *Immediately, Instantly*

The Disciples had been in this boat for 8-10 hours.

They had been fighting a storm that was trying to kill them.

They are physically exhausted, mentally strained, and yet spiritually revitalized because they just proclaimed, for the first time, that Jesus is the Son of God.

And now John's Gospel tells us of a fifth miracle.

The moment Jesus and Peter stepped into the boat from that raging storm, the storm instantly calmed down and ceased to exist.

And At that same moment

But they were also supernaturally transported from the middle of the Sea of Galilee to the shore.

Matthew 14:34— When they had crossed over, they came to shore at Gennesaret.

Gennesaret was a region and a town.

Similar to how New York is both a city and a state.

Gennesaret is three miles south of Capernaum.

Capernaum is the city where Jesus and most of the 12 live at this point.

So they are almost home!

They have yet to make it to their final destination.

According to Josephus, the region of Gennesaret was an extremely fertile area for farming.

They farmed walnuts, figs, olives, and grapes.

The soil was so rich that rabbis called it “the Garden of God.” - Picture of the Garden of Eden.

This garden was a quiet, peaceful region for rest and relaxation.

Jesus likely brought the 12 to this area for private discipleship time with them. But once again, His plans were interrupted.

Matthew 14:35— When the men of that place recognized him,

Apparently, Jesus had not been to Gennesaret before.

But that didn't mean that the townspeople didn't know Jesus.

W/ Capernaum only being 3 miles away - many people have already heard Jesus teach, preach & heal.

Jesus' reputation as a healer, preacher, and prophet proceeded Him.

Matthew 14:35— When the men of that place recognized him, they alerted the whole vicinity...

Your translation may say they told the *whole country* or the *entire region*.

In other words, *What is Jesus of Nazareth doing in Cornville? Go tell everybody!*

Matthew 14:35— they alerted the whole vicinity and brought to him all who were sick.

Notice the emphasis on sickness.

Matthew
Our Gospel writer is simply stating a fact.

Sickness and disease are at the forefront of their minds.

When people got sick in the first century, there was often little hope of getting well.

However, they know that Jesus can heal. *them of whatever sickness they have.*

Remember the medical advances we have today compared to 2,000 years ago.

Many times, as Christians today, we put way too much faith in our medical doctors.

As the Church, it is so easy for us to get caught up in the world's mindset that we must do everything we can to be well—because we act like this is our best life now.

This life is not your best life now—not if you're a Christian.

It is your best life now—if you're not.

The Lord Jesus was the Great Physician back then, and He is today.

Hebrews 13:8—Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

KEY POINT

Yes, Jesus heals physical needs—but more importantly, Jesus offers healing of our greatest disease—sin.

Mark 2:16— When the scribes who were Pharisees, saw that ^{Jesus} he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

Mark 2:17— When Jesus heard this, he told them, "It is not those who are well who need a doctor, but those who are sick. I didn't come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Notice the divine call to believe.

Jesus physically healed countless numbers of people.

But there's a problem with that—and the problem is that they will get sick again.

And even if they don't, they will most certainly die.

Let's not forget the reason that Jesus performed miracles.

Miracles are a sign that proves to everyone that Jesus is who He says He is.

Contrary to popular belief today. — physical healing is NOT enough. — Temporary AT BEST.

Miracles are not an end in themselves.

KEY POINT 2

Miracles point us to the Miracle Worker—The God/Man, Jesus Christ.

Matthew 14:36— They begged him that they might only touch the end of his robe,

They urged, implored, and exhorted Jesus for help.

They kept asking over and over and over again. — why?

They were desperate.

Do you remember your time/s of desperation—crying out to Jesus for help?

Matthew 14:36— They begged him that they might only touch the end of his robe,

Wow, how news travels fast in the first century.

There is no doubt that these folks heard about a previous miracle.

Mark 5:25— Now a woman suffering from bleeding for twelve years

Mark 5:26— had endured much under many doctors. She had spent everything she had and was not helped at all. On the contrary, she became worse.

Mark 5:27— Having heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his clothing.

Mark 5:28— For she said, "If I just touch his clothes, I'll be made well."

Mark 5:29— Instantly her flow of blood ceased, and she sensed in her body that she was healed of her affliction.

Mark 5:30— Immediately Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?"

Mark 5:31— His disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing against you, and yet you say, 'Who touched me?' "

Mark 5:32— But he was looking around to see who had done this.

Mark 5:33— The woman, with fear and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before him, and told him the whole truth.

Mark 5:34— "Daughter," he said to her, "your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be healed from your affliction."

Pause—be aware of prosperity preachers who take this verse out of its context.

They will teach you a lie that sounds so Biblical.

They say— *See, it's right there in the text—it's your faith that saves you. It was this woman's faith that made her well. So if you're not healthy, you don't have enough faith. If you aren't wealthy, you don't have enough faith. You don't have enough faith if you have all these problems in your life—because God want's you healthy, wealthy and prosperous.*

Here's the problem— I guess the apostle Paul didn't have enough faith.

Let me give you just one passage as an example— to ponder regarding this demonic lie of the prosperity gospel.

2 Corinthians 11:24—Five times I received the forty lashes minus one from the Jews.

2 Corinthians 11:25—Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was shipwrecked. I have spent a night and a day in the open sea.

2 Corinthians 11:26—On frequent journeys, I faced dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my own people, dangers from Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers at sea, and dangers among false brothers;

2 Corinthians 11:27—toil and hardship, many sleepless nights, hunger and thirst, often without food, cold, and without clothing.

wow, Paul, I guess you don't have enough faith - You're not exp. your best yet now
This is all to remind you of how important it is to listen very closely and with a discerning ear to what people are really saying.

How dare these people tell you it's your fault and draw you away from the Lord, when it is the Lord who has ordained the trial in the first place—

Why? To build your faith.

God's word teaches that we are not to complain about our trials but rather boast in them

Romans 5:3—~~but~~ we also boast in our afflictions, because we know that affliction produces endurance,

Romans 5:4—endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope.

Romans 5:5—This hope will not disappoint us because God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Back to our Gospel passage...

Matthew 14:36— They begged ^{Jesus} him that they might only touch the end of his robe, and as many as touched it were healed.

Whatever their motives may have been, Jesus had compassion on them and healed them.

I'm sure many of these people were deeply grateful to Jesus, but I doubt they realized who He was.

They certainly heard of his reputation as a healer, teacher, and preacher.

But do you see what is missing?

→ Matthew doesn't say whether or not these townspeople believed.

In other words, we have another bad case of the normals.

They were using Jesus for their own needs.

ILLUSTRATION

"I just need to get well—keep your Jesus stuff to yourself."

Similar to the crowd at the feeding of the 5,000.

They missed the point that Jesus is the bread of life.

John 6:47— "Truly I tell you, anyone who believes has eternal life.

John 6:48— I am the bread of life.

John 6:49— Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.

We need more than physical food: physical health

John 6:50— This is the bread that comes down from heaven so that anyone may eat of it and not die.

John 6:51— I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread he will live forever.

Regardless of missing the point, the compassion of Jesus in this summary passage is overwhelming.

Think of your own life—all those years and decades where you worshipped the unholy trinity of me, myself, and I.

- Chasing that career
- Following the lie of the American dream.
- Trying to make a name for yourself in some form or fashion.
- Living our lives as if we're in control of them—until we're not.
- Making deals with God—"Give me this job or promotion, and I'll finally start tithing!"

Yet, by God's grace, the Lord Jesus cared for ~~you~~^{us} anyway.

It's a good day when we realize that God's love for us has nothing to do with our performance.

God's love for us is solely based on His grace.

We see that same compassion here in our passage.

It doesn't matter how superficially motivated ~~they~~^{the crowd} they may be.

~~Here is the other thing~~—Jesus knew they were using him, but he had compassion for them anyway.



PREACH:

So today is a good day for the Gospel.

But why isn't it a great day for the Gospel?

It's been said that the enemy of great is good.

Something is still desperately wrong. What is it?

The biggest miracle anyone can ever experience is the gift of salvation.

Did anyone *believe* that Jesus is Lord and Messiah after they got physically healed?

Was anyone born again? The passage doesn't say.

Jesus told Nicodemus that anyone who is not born again will not enter the Kingdom of God. (John 3:5)


Are we so focused on today that we miss what this life is really for?

This life is a time of testing.

This life is a time for the Holy Spirit of Almighty God to purge all sin, wickedness and selfishness from our hearts.

This life is a time of transformation—it is a time to be conformed and transformed into the very image of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. (Rom. 12:1-2).

This summary passage today brings up a great question:



Do I have to be healed / Does God have to perform a miracle in my life for me to truly believe?

+ **Proverbs 3:5**—Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding;

+ **Proverbs 3:6**—in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight.

+ **Proverbs 3:7**—Don't be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil.

+ **Proverbs 3:8**—This will be healing for your body, and strengthening for your bones.

If we want healing and strength, God tells us to trust Him—no matter the cost.

+ **KEYPOINT 3:**
Demanding a miracle is not an act of faith—it proves our lack of faith.

What is faith?

+ **Hebrews 11:1**—Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen.
loves us for who we already are.

Just as God treats us for the person we're becoming, we are to believe in the reality of God's promises as stated in Scripture.

The proof in what is not seen is the change in our hearts.

+ **PRAYER**
LORD'S SUPPER
SONG

BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and protect you; may the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; may the Lord look with favor on you and give you peace.” ’ (Num. 6:25)

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

