

Matthew 14  
Part 2 (13-36)  
Jesus performs more miracles

- V. Jesus withdraws (13, 14).
  - A. After John's death Jesus departs from "His own country" (cf. 13:54).
    - 1. He went by ship to a deserted area (cf. Lk 9:10).
      - a. Jesus was probably deeply moved by the treatment and termination of John's life by Herod.
      - b. Sometimes, when we are very troubled, we want to get to a place to be alone.
      - c. These troubles should cause us to intensify our prayers to God (cf. 26:36-39).
    - 2. The multitude followed Him.
      - a. They followed on foot, which means they knew where He might go in a time of distress.
      - b. They would not leave Him alone.
  - B. All this took place while the disciples were gone preaching the "limited commission" (cf. 10:5-7).
    - 1. Mark's account reveals they were just returning from this commission (cf. Mk 6:30).
    - 2. Jesus wanted to get the disciples some rest (cf Mk 6:31).
- VI. Jesus feeds about five thousand men (15-21).
  - A. The "desert" place provided no place for food and shelter for the night (15).
    - 1. The disciples wanted to send the multitude away for the "day was far spent" (cf Mk 6:35, 36).
    - 2. This was proper because of the obvious needs of such a large number (cf James 2:16).
  - B. Jesus had a better idea (16).
    - 1. "Give them to eat" was His statement.
      - a. This shows the care and compassion of our Savior.
      - b. It is a wonderful characteristic of God's people (cf Job 31:16-22; Lk 3:11; 2 Cor 9:7, 8).
    - 2. John's account gives us additional interesting information on this point (cf Jn 6:5-7).
      - a. John also says it was Jesus who initiated the idea of feeding the multitude.
      - b. We will see the same setting in the next chapter (cf 15:33).
  - C. Among the multitude they found a boy with some food (17, 18).
    - 1. Andrew found a lad with five barley loaves and two fishes (cf Jn 6:8, 9)
      - a. The barley loaves were a poor man's bread (cf 2 Kings 7:1; Rev 6:6).
      - b. Two "small" fishes (This may have been the boy's lunch).
    - 2. This would mean each "loaf" would be divided among a thousand men.
    - 3. Also each small fish would be divided between 2,500 men.
  - D. The multitude sat down as Jesus offered thanks for the food (19) (cf 15:36; 26:27).
    - 1. Interestingly, it says they sat down on the "grass" in a desert place (cf Mk 6:39; Jn 6:10).

2. Mark and Luke break the multitude down into groups (cf Mk 6:40; Lk 9:14).
- E. Not only did they all eat, but all were filled (20, 21).
  1. They would break off bread and fish for each man, but the loaf and fish never ran out.
    - a. This miracle defied anything they had seen to this point.
    - b. It is much like the widow's oil of Elijah's day (cf 1 Kgs 17:16).
  2. The fragments were collected so nothing would be wasted (cf Jn 6:12).
    - a. Twelve baskets were collected. One for each Apostle (cf Jn 6:13).
    - b. "Besides women and children" shows us the magnitude of this miracle.
    - c. Often women and children were not counted in the east (cf Acts 4:4).
- VII. Peter walks on the water (22-33).
  - A. Jesus sends the multitude away then goes off to the mountain to pray (22, 23).
    1. Jesus was a man of prayer, which should alert us to prayer's importance.
      - a. We must also keep in mind that news of John's death was just brought to Him that day (12, 13).
      - b. This may have been the reason he departed to the desert to begin with.
    2. Jesus wanted a place of solitude to pray and remember this great man (cf 6:6; Acts 10:9.)
  - B. Jesus comes to His disciples walking on the water.
    1. The disciples set sail, but the wind was blowing the wrong way and the sea was rough.
      - a. Storms on the Sea of Galilee were common and arose quickly (cf 8:24; Mk 4:37, 38).
      - b. They had gone out to approximately the center of the sea (cf Mk 6:47).
      - c. John records the distance at 25 or 30 furlongs (cf Jn 6:19).
    2. Jesus approaches the disciples walking on the water.
      - a. This took place during the "fourth watch" of the night (cf Lk 12:38).
      - b. Their fear was based on seeing Him walking to them through the darkness (cf Lk 1:11, 12; 24:4, 5; Acts 10:3, 4).
      - c. When Jesus heard their cries He spoke to them to calm their fears (cf Acts 23:11).
  - C. Peter wants to walk out to meet Jesus on the water (28-33).
    1. The sound of the Master's voice removed the fear (cf Mk 6:50; Lk 24:37).
    2. Peter's impulsiveness is once again shown again in his request (26:33-36; Jn 6:68).
      - a. Peter began to walk on the water, but soon sank.
      - b. This shows that Peter's faith was weak (cf Jn 18:25-27).
      - c. Interestingly, it was when he took his eyes off Jesus he began to sink (cf Ps 69:1, 2).
      - d. The lesson should be obvious to each of us.
    3. Jesus helps Peter to safety.
      - a. As Jesus takes hold on Peter, He immediately points out the problem; little faith (cf 8:26; 16:8; 17:20; 1 Tim 2:8).
      - b. Fear is a source of doubt and the enemy of faith. Our victories come only if we overcome our fears (cf 10:28; Acts 27:24; Heb 13:6).
      - c. After this miracle the disciples worshipped Him as God's Son.

- VIII. Jesus heals those who come to him in Gennesarat (34-36).
- A. A region on the west side of the Sea of Galilee (34) (cf Lk 5:1).
    - 1. I thought this was a strange place to end their journey (cf Jn 6:17).
    - 2. Possibly blown off course and landed at daybreak.
  - B. Many diseased were brought to be healed (35, 36) (cf 4:24, 25).
    - 1. His fame was well known in this area (cf Mk 2:1-3).
    - 2. The “hem of his garment” was a reference to His outer clothing (cf Num 15:38, 39; Matt 23:5).
    - 3. Healing had been done in this fashion before (cf 9:20, 21; Mk 3:10; Lk 6:19; Acts 19:11, 12).

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