**July 22, 2020**

BIBLE STUDY

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**MADE PERFECTLY WHOLE**

**Matthew 14:1-36**

***Matthew 14:1 "At that time Herod the tetrarch heard of the fame of Jesus,"***

***Matthew 14:2 "And said unto his servants, This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead; and therefore mighty works do shew forth themselves in him."***

“At that time” refers to the fame of Jesus that had spread throughout the land. Interestingly, chapter 13 ends those in his own county did not feel the same way.

***Matthew 13:53-58***

***53And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these parables, he departed thence.***

***54And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?***

***55Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?***

***56And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?***

***57And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.***

***58And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.***

Herod the tetrarch is Herod Antipas, the son of Herod the Great, the ruler of Galilea and Perea. This Herod had beheaded John and was feeling guilty or even condemned. He was fearful of John when John was living, and now, he had worked himself up to believe that this Jesus was John risen from the grave.

***Mark 6:20 For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.***

***Matthew 14:3 "For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put [him] in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife."***

***Matthew 14:4 "For John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee to have her."***

Herod was an adulterer who had married his brothers’ wife. John had confronted him and told them that they were living in sin. He publicly challenged the legitimacy of Herod’s divorce and incestuous remarriage, which was a clear violation of God’s law. Herod put him in jail to keep him quiet.

***Leviticus 20:21 And if a man shall take his brother's wife, it is an unclean thing: he hath uncovered his brother's nakedness; they shall be childless.***

***Matthew 14:5 "And when he would have put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet."***

Herod and Herodias would have liked to be rid of John, but they were afraid of the followers of John, because there were so many of them.

***Matthew 14:6 "But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod."***

***Matthew 14:7 "Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask."***

***Matthew 14:8 "And she, being before instructed of her mother, said, Give me here John Baptist's head in a charger."***

***Matthew 14:9 "And the king was sorry: nevertheless for the oath's sake, and them which sat with him at meat, he commanded [it] to be given [her]."***

***Matthew 14:10 "And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison."***

***Matthew 14:11 "And his head was brought in a charger, and given to the damsel: and she brought [it] to her mother."***

You can easily see why we should not take oaths without full disclosure. Herodias was guilty and vindictive woman who wanted John dead more than Herod. This evil Herodias caught Herod at a weak moment and plotted this evil scheme. The sin was the mother's. The daughter was just carrying out her mother's wishes. Herod really did not want to kill John, but to save face with his friends, he carried out this horrid deed. John was a martyr. John's trouble was over. Herod's trouble was just beginning.

***Matthew 14:12 "And his disciples came, and took up the body, and buried it, and went and told Jesus."***

These were John's disciples (followers) who got his body and buried it. Their first thought was to warn Jesus.

***Matthew 14:13 "When Jesus heard [of it], he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart: and when the people had heard [thereof], they followed him on foot out of the cities."***

Jesus withdrew from the city to be alone for a while. It was not time for Jesus to confront Herod here. The large groups of people who followed Jesus for the healings and miracles would not be discouraged, just because He had left town. They just walked out to the desert where He was. They wanted to be healed and to see His mighty miracles.

***Matthew 14:14 "And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick."***

This multitude had needs in their lives. Jesus is always concerned about our needs. He is always ready to heal. This time was no different. He realized they had great belief, or they would not have come so far. Faith brings answers to prayers. Jesus healed them.

***Matthew 14:15 "And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals."***

The disciples were telling Jesus that supper time had passed, and that these people needed to leave to go find food. They, probably, were ready for the ministry for that day to stop as well, because it was getting late.

***Matthew 14:16 " But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat."***

***Matthew 14:17 "And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes."***

Jesus knew that He was the Bread of Life. The disciples could see only the physical food. The number "five" means grace. The disciples could not understand how Jesus could believe these five loaves and two fishes could feed so many.

***Matthew 14:18 "He said, Bring them hither to me."***

***Matthew 14:19 "And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to [his] disciples, and the disciples to the multitude."***

***Matthew 14:20 "And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full."***

***Matthew 14:21 "And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children."***

This is one of the most interesting miracles in the Bible. Several things we need to note here. The disciples did not believe at first that there was enough food. Jesus is the Bread of Life. He fed the three million Israelites on their way to the promised land this was minor to that. We, also, must see the importance of prayer before meals. We, also, must realize that on command Jesus could cause a super abundance of anything to be there. God owns everything, and it is all subject to His command. It is, also, interesting that after feeding 10 to 20 thousand people, there was still a basket of food left for each disciple. Jesus created the universe. This miracle of food was minor to that. Jesus has no limits to what He could do then or now. We limit God. God is not limited. As we see in the next verse. Jesus did not stop and dwell on this miracle, He quickly went on to other things.

***Matthew 14:22 "And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away."***

***Matthew 14:23 "And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone."***

Jesus needed time away from the group. He sent the multitude home and went aside to commune with the Father. We should learn from this the importance of time alone with God in prayer. The most effective prayers are when we are hidden away with God.

***Matthew 14:24 "But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary."***

The Sea of Galilee is well known for its high winds and shipwrecks. This was no different. The wind was up.

***Matthew 14:25 "And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea."***

***Matthew 14:26 "And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear."***

***Matthew 14:27 "But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid."***

It would be a fearful sight in the dark of night to see a man walking on the sea. They really didn't realize who Jesus was, or they would not have been astonished at this feat. Jesus recognized their fear and spoke to them to calm them down.

***Matthew 14:28 "And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water."***

***Matthew 14:29 "And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus."***

You can see from these Scriptures above, that faith in Jesus makes supernatural things possible. The secret of success is to obey the Lord's voice, and then keep our eyes upon Him.

***Matthew 14:30 "But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me."***

***Matthew 14:31 "And immediately Jesus stretched forth [his] hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"***

You see, Peter was doing fine, until he took his eyes off Jesus, and on to the things of the world. Fear is not of God. It is lack of faith. Our cry, the same as Peter's, is Lord save me. There was no hesitation. Jesus is always as near as our cry for help. He is our very present help. He reminded Peter that his doubt was what caused him to sink.

***Matthew 14:32 "And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased."***

***Matthew 14:33 "Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God."***

Where Jesus is, there is always peace. This walking on the water did this for the disciples. They suddenly realized who Jesus was. It seems as if they should have known it before, when He fed 5,000 men.

***Matthew 14:34 "And when they were gone over, they came into the land of Gennesaret."***

***Gennesaret was a small region of Galilee on the west shore of the lake.***

***Matthew 14:35 "And when the men of that place had knowledge of him, they sent out into all that country round about, and brought unto him all that were diseased;"***

***Matthew 14:36 "And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole."***

You see, this was away from the home area of Jesus. The disciples had just seen such a miracle that caused them to worship Jesus. His fame had spread, and people brought all their friends and relatives who were sick. Their faith was so strong that they thought if they could touch anything of His, it would heal them. The great miracles, here, happened because of their great faith.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What did Herod think when he heard of the fame of Jesus?
2. Why did Herod put John in jail?
3. What sin had John told Herod he committed?
4. Why had Herod not put John to death?
5. What was the celebrated occasion when Herodias' daughter danced?
6. Who told her to ask for John's head?
7. Why did Herod go through with this hideous crime?
8. Whose disciples came out and got the body?
9. When Jesus heard, what did He do?
10. What happened to the multitude seeking Jesus' help?
11. When Jesus realized they had followed, what did he do?
12. What brings answers to prayers?
13. In verse 16, what did Jesus tell the disciples that seemed impossible.
14. How many loaves and fishes did they have?
15. What does five mean?
16. What two things did Jesus do before serving the food?
17. How many fragments were left?
18. How many were fed?
19. Who is Jesus?
20. Who stayed to send the multitude away?
21. What did Jesus do when He was alone?
22. What time of night did Jesus go to them?
23. What effect did it have on the disciples?
24. Who asked to meet Jesus?
25. What makes supernatural things possible?
26. What did Peter cry out?
27. What is fear?
28. What land did they go to?
29. What did the men do when they heard Jesus had come to them?
30. The great miracles happened because of what?