

COMMENTARY

MATTHEW 14:

vs. 1-12:

Herod the tetrarch (Herod The Great was ruler when Jesus was born and ruled from 37 BC-4 AD; Herod the Tetrarch ((Math 14:1)) was the son of Herod the Great and a Samaritan woman and ruled Galilee and Perea) assumed Jesus to be John the Baptist, raised from the dead.

Herod the tetrarch (also known as Herod Antipas) had taken Herodias as his wife, even though she was married to his brother Philip. This sin was denounced by John the Baptist and Herod had him imprisoned because of it. Herod feared the people and John (see Mark 6:19,20) so he did not do anything to harm him. Herodias, however, sought to have John killed. On Herod's birthday, Salome (daughter of Herodias and Herod Philip) danced at Herods request. He was so pleased that he promised her anything up to half of his kingdom (Mark 6:23). Herodias persuaded Salome to ask for the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Her wish was then carried out. John's disciples then came and took his body and buried it, before going and telling Jesus what had happened.

vs. 13-21:

Jesus, upon hearing the news, left by boat to be alone and to get farther away from Herod. The crowds continued to follow him on foot. When Jesus landed and saw the crowds he felt compassion on them and healed their sickness.

Evening time came and Jesus instructed His disciples, who were concerned about the people getting some food, to feed the multitude. They replied that they only had 5 loaves and 2 fish. The loaves of barley (John 6:9) were considered to be poor peoples food. The loaves would have been small along with the fish, which would have been the size of sardines. Jesus instructed the people to sit down, at which time He gave thanks and broke the loaves. The disciples then distributed the food to the people and all ate until they were satisfied. The remnants were taken up and 12 baskets were collected. This miracle of Jesus, provided food for 5,000 men (not including the women and children).

vs. 22-36:

Jesus then sent His disciples ahead of Him by boat while He dismissed the people. After all had left, Jesus took this time to speak with His Father. On several occasions we see Jesus separating Himself from people and His work, to spend time with God. Such is the example that we should follow. When Jesus was ready to join His disciples, they were already far off (as much as 3 of the 6 miles across the Lake of Galilee). Jesus then walked on the surface of the water to His disciples. Upon seeing Him, they became scared. Jesus comforted them. Peter asked permission to join Jesus on the water and went out to see Him. Because of a lack of faith, Peter began to sink and cried out for help. Jesus reached out and asked Peter why he doubted. Jesus climbed into the boat and His disciples worshipped Him, confessing that He was the Son of God.

When they arrived at the other side, the people recognized Jesus and sent word. People brought their sick to Him and all who touched Him were healed.

STUDY GUIDE

MATTHEW 14:

1. Why did Herod think Jesus had miraculous powers?
2. What had John been saying?
3. What did Herodias' daughter ask for?
4. What happened to John's body?
5. Why did the disciples want the crowds sent away?
6. What food did the disciples have?
7. How many were fed?
8. What did Jesus do up in the hills?
9. How did Jesus get to the disciples?
10. What caused Peter to be afraid?
11. What did those in the boat say about Jesus?
12. What did the men of that place do, when they recognized Jesus?

BONUS:

1. What is the greatest cost you have ever endured, because of something that you did, that was right?
2. Why doesn't Jesus feed all of the poor today?
3. What impression do you have of Peter, from the walking on the water?