

Matthew Chapter 14

V: 1 Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch, which means ruler of the fourth (1/4) part.

V: 2 Although Herod correctly associated John and Jesus together, it seems to be based on superstition.

- Herod had spoken with John, and knew that he was a man of God. **Mark 6:20**
- As Herod speaks of “these powers” he reveals that he really has no understanding of God or of spiritual things – he is simply superstitious.
- Herod Antipas later judges Jesus at His trial before He is crucified.

V's: 3-12 These are a parenthetical insertion describing John's death.
Chronologically, verse 13 follows verse 2.

Background as recorded by Josephus:

- Herod Agrippa, also known as Phillip, was brother to Antipas. Agrippa had been a poor and weak ruler of his inheritance, his “fourth part”, he and his wife Herodius lived on the charity of Antipas.
- Herod Agrippa / Phillip and Herodius later lived in Rome and were subsequently imprisoned by Caesar Tiberius. Some time later he was released and restored by Caesar Caius with much honor and wealth.
- Prior to Phillip's restoration, Antipas went to Rome and subsequently returned with Herodius. Herodius was an ambitious woman who wanted very much to be a queen.
- This is where we find them in this story.
- Later Phillip is restored by Caesar Caius and returns to Israel.
- Herodius become jealous of his wealth, honors, and specifically his title “king”. She pushes Antipas to go to Rome and seek the same honors for himself, and for her. When they arrive in Rome, so does a message from Agrippa / Phillip accusing Antipas of planning a revolt. The proof offered is 70,000 sets of armor gathered and set aside, which Agrippa admits to.
- Antipas ends up banished to Gaul; Herodius voluntarily goes with him. All their combined wealth is then given to Agrippa, including their territory.
- Jesus seemed to refer to this political intrigue as an illustration when He was leaving Jericho in **Luke 19:11-15**.

V: 4 John speaks forth a simple and well known truth – adultery is a sin, fornication is a sin, homosexuality is a sin – right and wrong are timeless.

- There is never an excuse or valid justification for sin.

Even though Paul hadn't written it yet, John the Baptist knew the standard:

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 ⁹“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”

- John wouldn't have been doing Herod any favors with his silence.
- **Gift of “boldness”** Peter after Pentecost / Elijah @ Mt. Carmel.

Matthew 10:28 “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

- John was willing to speak the truth even if it cost him his life.
- We have to choose who we're going to fear, men or God.

Proverbs 14:34 “Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.”

V: 5 At Herodius' insistence.

Mark 6:18-20 ¹⁸For John had said unto Herod, it is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife. ¹⁹Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him, and would have killed him; but she could not: ²⁰For 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.”

- There is grave danger in hearing gladly – and doing nothing.
- Herodias: Her-odious
- Odious: (Webster's) hateful; disgusting; offensive.

V: 6-7 Dances / performances were usually done by prostitutes to excite their potential customers.

- It was very unusual for a royal princess to dance before a king and his guests.
- A rash statement, oath.

V: 8 This was all planned and orchestrated ahead of time - conspiracy.

Galatians 5:19-21 “¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, un-cleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance (contentious, argumentative), emulations (malicious zeal), wrath, strife, seditions (divisive), heresies, ²¹envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings (riotous), and such like:....”

Lasciviousness: (G766) aselgeia, as-elg'-i-a; “wantonness”, “filthy”, speaking of unbridled lust, excess, licentiousness, outrageousness, shamelessness, insolence, debauchery, sexual excess, absence of restraint, insatiable desire for pleasure, perversion in general.

V: 9 Herod regretted what he had said:

Proverbs 10:19 “In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.”

V: 10 Jesus and John the Baptist are both historical figures recorded in secular history. Josephus describes both their executions.

V: 11 A gruesome gift.

V: 12 John’s disciples were probably sad and discouraged; did the right thing, they turned to Jesus!

Psalms 46:1 “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

V: 13 Picking up now from verse 2.

- When Jesus heard of “it”, meaning the fact that Herod was now looking for Him.
- Jesus departs the area that is controlled by Herod.
- Timing is everything.

John 7:6 “Then Jesus said to them, My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready.”

- Jesus came to give His life, but not at the edict of Herod.

John 10:17-18 “¹⁷Therefore doth My Father love Me, because I lay down My life, that I may take it again. ¹⁸No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of My Father.”

- Herod didn’t see or meet Jesus until Jesus’ trial. Even then Jesus refused to talk to him or answer his questions.

- “Departing” – Jesus and His disciples withdrew to a “deserted” place out of the way. Josephus records that there were 204 villages in Galilee with a population of 15,000 or more. Finding a deserted place would not have been easy.

Mark 6:31 “And He said unto them, come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.”

- People could see where He was headed, from Capernaum to Bethsaida.

Luke 9:10 “And the apostles, when they were returned, told Him all that they had done. And He took them, and went aside privately into a desert place belonging to the city called Bethsaida.”

- This is about the time that the disciples had just returned from their first solo missionary trips from **Matthew Ch. 10**.

V: 14 “*Compassion toward them*” – Jesus saw them as sheep without a shepherd.

Mark 6:34 “And Jesus, when He came out saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things.”

- Jesus / disciples needed rest and quiet time, but there were needs all around Him.

Mark 8:34 “... whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

- Jesus denied himself and met the need.

V: 15-16 The disciples realize what time it is and want to send the people away. It may have already been too late to purchase bread locally – especially for that number of people.

- Jesus says “you give them something to eat.”
- He wouldn’t have said that unless it was possible – an issue of faith?
- **Feeding of the 5,000 is recorded in all 4 Gospels.** Mark 6:35-44 - Luke 9:12-17 - John 6:4-13.
- After healing multitudes, instead of resting, they invite everyone to dinner.

V: 17 Loaves – barley bread, barley is food for livestock, poor mans bread.

John 6:9 Boy / barley loaves & two fish.

- As with the water being turned to wine in Cana, the barley bread was probably the best bread anyone had ever had.

V: 18 Give Jesus what little you have, and He'll multiply it and make it better!

V: 19 **Mark 6:39** Jesus had them sit in-groups.

1 Corinthians 14:33 God is not the author of confusion. He's organized.

- *In between blessing & giving is breaking.*

Judges Ch. 7 – Gideon Vs Midianites, when the earthen vessels were “broken”, the light was allowed to shine forth, which led to the victory.

- Jesus gave to His disciples; they gave to the people.

1 Corinthians 11:23 “What I have received, I have given to you.”

- Can't give what you don't have.

V: 20 “Filled” = “satisfied”

Ephesians 3:20 “Now unto Him that is able to do exceedingly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,”

Isaiah 40:11 “He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.”

Psalms 23:1-6 “¹The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. ²He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. ³He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. ⁴Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. ⁵Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.”

V: 21 5,000 men – but when you add in wives & children it could easily, conservatively have been 20,000.

V: 22 Straightway – constrained, an authoritative command.

John 6:15 “When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take Him by force, to make Him a king, He departed again into a mountain Himself alone.”

- Disciples may have been caught up on in the euphoria to make Jesus king by force.

V: 23 Jesus, alone with the Father in prayer. Jesus could see the disciples below Him struggling across the lake.

Mark 6:46-48 “⁴⁶And when He had sent them away, He departed into a mountain to pray. ⁴⁷And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and He alone on the land. ⁴⁸And He saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night He cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.”

Psalms 34:15 “The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry.”

V: 24 Jesus knew He was sending the disciples into a storm, in fact this is the 2nd time He’s done so.

- Storms appear in our lives for two reasons.
 1. Correction – as with Jonah.
 2. Perfection – development.

Romans 5:3-5 “³And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; ⁴and patience, experience; and experience, hope: ⁵And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy ghost which is given unto us.”

John 16:33 “These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

James 1:2-4 “²My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations; ³knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”

The wind was contrary – against them:

Ephesians 2:2 “Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.”

V: 25 4th watch = 3:00 – 6:00 AM / dawn.

Revelation 22:16 Jesus is our bright and morning star.

1. He sends us into storms for a reason.
2. He watches and prays for us while we're in them.
3. He comes to us at just the right time, but not always in ways we expect.

V: 26 Terrified! Seasoned sailors.

Titus 2:13 “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our savior Jesus Christ.”

- As opposed to:

Luke 24:13-35 Road to Emmaus.

John 20:15 Mary @ the tomb with the “gardener.”

John 21:1-4 When the Apostles went fishing.

- They didn't recognize Jesus because they weren't looking for the resurrected savior, just like the disciples on the lake weren't looking for Jesus at all.
- Faith and fear cannot co-exist they are mutually exclusive.

1 John 4:18 “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.”

Romans 8:31, 35-39. ³¹What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? – ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, for thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. ³⁷Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. ³⁸For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

V: 27 Jesus immediately seeks to comfort His disciples, knowing they are troubled. He doesn't rebuke them for their lack of faith – He meets them where they are at.

Romans 8:1 “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

V: 28-29 Peter got out of the boat and went for it!

“...*if you bid me....*” Peter waited for Jesus to call him, if God calls us to it, then it will work.

Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

Matthew 17:20 “And Jesus said unto them, because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, if ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.”

Matthew 19:26 “But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, with men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.”

- Jesus said “come” – His commandments are His empowerments.

V: 30 Peter got scared because he took his eyes off of Jesus.

Wind:

2 Timothy 1:7 “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

- Peter’s prayer, short and to the point!

Ecclesiastes 5:2 “Be not be rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few..”

1 Peter 3:12 “For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers...”

V: 31 “Immediately” – God’s timing is perfect.

- Jesus caught him: Jesus is our safety net, He is our strong tower, He is our place of refuge.

V: 32 The Prince of Peace arrived!

1 John 4:4 “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.”

Philippians 4:6-7 “⁶Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep you’re your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

V: 33 Transition: they are progressing in their thoughts about Jesus, moving from

Matthew 8:25-27 “what kind of man is this”

To the present: “Of a truth thou art the Son of God.”

Matthew 16:13-18 “Thou art the Christ, the Son of God.”

V: 34-36 Back to Gadera:

- Jesus got a different reception from His 1st visit in **Matthew 8:28-34**.
- Why? One mans testimony! **Mark 5:1-21**

Overall: Jesus is showing the people what he was teaching. The living Word.

1 John 1:1-3 “¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life: ²For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us; ³that which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His son Jesus Christ.”

John 1:14 “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

James 1:22 “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”