

A STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Matthew 14

I. HEROD'S REJECTION OF JESUS, MISTAKEN IDENTITY, verses 1-12

- A. The background of John the Baptist's execution
verses 3-12; Mark 6: 14-29

- B. The bad case of mistaken identity by Herod, verses 1,2

II. THE HUNGRY CROWDS RECEIVE JESUS' FOOD, VERSES 13-21

- A. Jesus sees the needs of the crowd, verses 13-17

- B. Jesus supplies the need of the crowd, verses 18-21

III. THE DOUBTING DISCIPLES RECEIVE JESUS AS THE SON OF GOD verses 22-23

- A. The disciples fail to recognize who Jesus is, verses 22-26

- B. Jesus challenges the disciples' faith, verses 27-31

IV. THE SICK RECEIVE JESUS, THE HEALER, verses 34-36

- A. Jesus' popularity grows, verses 34, 35

- B. Jesus' power is manifested, verse 36

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Life Application—Matthew 14

1. The themes of rejection and reception are in this chapter. Chapter thirteen closes with Jesus' rejection by the hometown folks. What is significant about that?

2. Herod Antipas killed John the Baptist. What made him do this? How does the Bible say he felt about this? (Read the Mark 6 account). Why do you think he was fascinated by John the Baptist?

3. Chapter fourteen opens with Herod Antipas' identification of Jesus. What was it and why would he have suggested this identity? What are some current ways people identify Jesus other than who He truly is? Why?

4. Jesus goes away from the crowds in two instances in this chapter. Why do you think He needs to be away from them? What does He do when He leaves them? Of what value is this to the Son of God? Is there value for us in separating from the crowds?

5. The disciples want to send the crowds away but Jesus wants them to stay and to be fed. How would you have felt if He simply said about 10,000 people... "Feed them"? Would you have argued, complied with His wishes or balked at the "foolishness" of His directive to feed the people?

6. It is Jesus' compassion and miraculous power on display. What about these two attributes appeals to you? How are they related? Discuss how you have experienced either or both in your life?

7. Peter's walking on the water illustrates great faith and "little faith"? How so? How do we respond to Jesus appearances in our lives in the midst of life's stormy times? Share an example of how He met a need in your life this week and how you responded.