

SCRIPTURE
THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW

CHAPTER 14

Mt 14:1. At that time Herod the tetrarch heard of the fame (or news) (or reports) of (or about) Jesus,

COMMENTARY

CHAPTER 14

The ministry of Jesus began when He was about 30 years of age.

It lasted approximately 3 years.

Matthew 14:1-12 takes place about **29 months after He began His ministry.**

Mt 14:1 follows Lk 9:6 chronologically.

Mt 14:1. John the Baptist came first. Jesus followed afterward. Jesus was becoming famous.

A BIT OF HISTORY

Herod the Great is the ruler that had the Jewish male babies killed in Bethlehem. He may have died about 4 BC. He was descended from Esau. His kingdom was shared between his three sons.

Herod Antipas (or Antipater) was one of his sons. He was born about 20 or 21 BC and lived to 39 AD (about 59 years). His mother's name was Malthace.

Herod Antipas, or Herod the Tetrach, as he was also called, ruled a fourth part of Palestine, which was in the Galilee and in Perea, from 4 BC to 39 AD. The title "Tetrach" signifies a governor of the fourth part of a province, a subordinate prince.

As time passed, Herod the Tetrarch heard about Jesus and the incredible powers He had and the miracles He was doing.

John the Baptist's condemnation of Herod Antipas (because he had married his brother's wife) seemed to begin Herod's downfall.

Herod was the one that had John the Baptist arrested. He also judged Jesus when He was on trial..

He was responsible for the death of both John the Baptist and Jesus. He was the one that thought John had risen from the dead.

Herod divorced his first wife Phasaelis in favor of Herodias, which had been previously married to his half brother Herod II.

Reportedly, his divorce added to problems in disputes with Aretas (the king of Nabatea) (father of Phasaelis) over the territories of Perea and Nabatea. This led to war in which Antipas suffered defeat.

He was accused of conspiracy against the Roman emperor Caligula. He was sent into exile in Gaul. Herodias went with him. The date he died is uncertain.

As should be mentioned further on, King Agrippa united much approximately 41 to 44 AD.

The family name "Herod" is first mentioned in Matthew's Gospel in Mt 2:1, and is referred to as King Herod.

It is mentioned in Matthew's Gospel 12 times, Mark's Gospel 8 times, Luke's Gospel 12 times, and in the Acts 8 times.

Up to this time, Herod did not seem to have any knowledge of Jesus. Now he hears about the fame of Jesus.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:1**, At that time Herod the tetrarch heard of the fame (or news) (or reports) of (or about) Jesus.

Mt 14:2. And said unto his servants (or attendants), This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead; and therefore (or this is why)

Mt 14:2. Herod then spoke to his servants. What he said reveals how very misled he was. He had already had John the Baptist killed.

mighty (or miraculous) works (or powers) do shew forth themselves (or are at work) in him.

Mt 14:3. For (when) (or now) Herod had laid hold on (or had) John (arrested), and bound him, and (he) put him in prison for Herodias' sake (or on account of Herodias), his brother Philip's wife.

Now he has thoughts that John the Baptist had risen from the dead, and this person called Jesus was actually John the Baptist.

He didn't realize that both John and Jesus were ministering during some of the same times, but in different locations and at one time were together. This was when John baptized Jesus. Thus, they could not be the same person.

This gives us an example how Satan can put wrong thinking in people's thoughts and even gives us reasons for the wrong thinking. Satan is the father of lies.

Herod did admit, from what he had heard, that Jesus was doing miraculous miracles.

It seems Herod's thoughts troubled him.

Ps 105:15 tells us: ...TOUCH NOT MINE ANOINTED, AND DO MY PROPHETS NO HARM.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:2**, And said unto his servants (or attendants), This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead; and therefore (or this is why) mighty (or miraculous) works (or powers) do shew forth themselves (or are at work) in him.

Mt 14:3. Now the Scriptures revert back to the past.

They tell us that Herod had, had John arrested and bound. He had John put in prison, because he (Herod) was living in sin, and John was exposing his sin.

Regretfully, many of today's latter day, churches often do not preach on sin and repentance. They preach to please their people, rather than preaching to please God.

Mt 14:4. For John said (or had been saying) unto him, It is not lawful for thee (or you) to have her.

Today's churches are so far removed from teaching as Jesus and the apostles did, with Scriptures that convict people of wrongdoing, it has become another Gospel. It is a Gospel that, at best, is only lukewarm. The end results are people that believe they will inherit eternal life, but shall perish. And when they do perish, they will speak words like "Lord, Lord," followed with excuses.

Consider. How much does your church teach on sin, repentance, the judgments, hell, and the lake of fire, which is where more than 99% of all people go?

Every person that has ever lived will appear at a judgment. Did you know that?

Herod hated correction as do most people.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:3**, For (when) (or now) Herod had laid hold on (or had) John (arrested), and bound him, and (he) put him in prison for Herodias' sake (or on account of Herodias), his brother Philip's wife.

Mt 14:4. John was not afraid to preach on sin. John did indeed testify of evil works. The light exposes evil. John was very upset that a person in authority in Israel would commit such sins as he did openly.

John preached on sin. John had been stating clearly that what Herod was doing was not lawful. It was wrong. It was sin.

John's voice was the first that had been heard that brought forth God's Word, since Malachi. Reportedly, Malachi died around 331 B.C.

As also alluded to: There are many **churches** today that also avoid preaching on sin, the judgments, serving God, hell, and the lake of fire, are preaching another Gospel. Those that have God's calling should preach as Jesus and

the apostles did. However, many seminaries, Bible institutions, denominations, churches, radio and TV ministries teach otherwise.

The sins of this current generation have gone far beyond what went on then. Judgment is coming, even though few know it. Many Bible teachers in these latter days think the teaching is the best ever, and the people love to have it this way. And they will continue to love it until they are left behind in the Rapture.

What biblical words apply to this generation? Wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked-ref Rev 3:17.

This is indeed the age of the latter day generation in which people will no longer endure sound doctrine, but rather they gather around themselves preachers and teachers that say what their ears want or itch to hear.

And many indeed there are that preach another Gospel to please the people in order to get more and more contributions, so they can stay on the air and even expand their lukewarm doctrines.

Many people and ministers are so biblically ignorant that they don't even have a clue to what the **caught up**, or **Translation**, or **Rapture** (which are all terms for the same event) even is.

When the Rapture (1 Thes 4:17) comes, most that think they will be taken will have a surprise. They will be left behind-ref Mt 7:21-27, and many other verses.

John preached on sin.

Jesus preached on sin.

The apostles preached on sin.

But many preachers, radio, TV, crusade evangelists, and even some missionaries no longer preach anything like Jesus or the

Mt 14:5. And when he would have (or although he wanted to) put him to death (or kill him), he feared (or was afraid of) the multitude (or people), because they counted (or regarded) (or considered) him as a prophet.

Mt 14:6. But when Herod's birthday was kept (or came), the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod (so much).

apostles did.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:4**, For John said (or had been saying) unto him, It is not lawful for thee (or you) to have her.

Mt 14:5. As a result of John testifying of Herod's sin, Herod wanted to have John the Baptist put to death. Yet he was very afraid to do so, because many people believed John the Baptist was a prophet of God.

Herod had no fear of God, but he did fear the people.

If he would do this, there might be an uprising against him, or most certainly he might put himself in a position of ridicule. Also Rome might hear about it, and he could be in much trouble.

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Mt 14:6. Herodias was the daughter of another son of Herod the Great. As a result, when she married Philip, she was, in effect, marrying her own father's brother.

Finally, the day of Herod's birthday was kept.

As a birthday gift, the daughter of the wicked Herodias danced before Herod. One might consider that she was a beautiful, enticing girl that would highly please the men that were present and arouse their passions.

When she danced, Herod became very happy.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:6**, But when Herod's birthday was kept (or came), the

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

Mt 14:8. And she, being before instructed (or prompted) of (or by) her mother, (she) said, Give me here John Baptist's head in a charger (or platter).

Mt 14:9. And (although) the king was sorry (or grieved) (or distressed): nevertheless for (or because of) the oath's sake, and them which sat with him at meat (or dinner), he commanded (or ordered) it to be given her (or granted).

daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod (so much).

Mt 14:7. He was so pleased that he did a very foolish thing.

Herod had given his word that whatever the enticing girl wanted, it would be given to her. He did this before the many guests that were present, so he could not back out.

He promised this with an oath and did it openly.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:7**, Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask.

Mt 14:8. Meanwhile, before the girl had danced, she had already been instructed by her wicked mother as to what to say.

Her mother had told her to ask that John the Baptist should be killed, and then his head should brought on a platter or container.

The mother of the enticing girl was a very wicked and deceitful person. She had her own agenda and knew how to use people to get what she wanted.

The girl was equally wicked and knew how to use her beauty and enticing mannerisms to her own advantage.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:8**, And she, being before instructed (or prompted) of (or by) her mother, (she) said, Give me here John Baptist's head in a charger (or platter).

Mt 14:9. Herod should have never made such an open ended promise as to give her whatever she asked. It might be said his emotions were much stronger than his common sense.

For Herod to make such a promise, for nothing more than a moment of pleasure, showed he lacked common sense.

After the daughter of Herodias danced, he was sorry for what he had said. However because so many people had witnessed the words which he had said, he was afraid to go back on his word. He did not fear God, but did fear the people.

Even in current times, those in authority or politicians may fear public opinion.

He gave an order that John Baptist's head should be brought on a platter as the wicked Herodias had requested through her daughter.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:9**, And (although) the king was sorry (or grieved) (or distressed): nevertheless for (or because of) the oath's sake, and them which sat with him at meat (or dinner), he commanded (or ordered) it to be given her (or granted).

Mt 14:10. And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison.

Mt 14:10. So Herod sent an executioner to the prison and **John was beheaded.**

There was probably a cross section of various people in attendance.

Did any stand up in John's defense? No.

Did any Jewish leaders stand up for John? None is mentioned.

One might wonder how many of the people present at this time, were also present when Jesus was crucified?

The greatest born of women was killed.

Note **Mt 11:7-14**-And as they departed, **Jesus** began to say unto the multitudes **concerning John**, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind?

8-But what went ye out for to see? A man

clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.

9-But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet.

10-For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, **I send my messenger** before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

11-Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

12-And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.

13-For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.

14-And **if ye will receive it, this is Elias**, which was for to come.

Elias (or Elijah) had never been killed.

Note the following words.

2 Kings 2:1-12

1-And it came to pass, when the Lord would take up **Elijah** into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.

2-And Elijah said unto Elisha, Tarry here, I pray thee; for the Lord hath sent me to Bethel. And Elisha said unto him, As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Bethel.

3-And the sons of the prophets that were at Bethel came forth to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Lord will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he said, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace.

4-And Elijah said unto him, Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the Lord hath sent me to Jericho. And he said, As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they came to Jericho.

5-And the sons of the prophets that were at

Jericho came to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Lord will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he answered, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace.

6-And Elijah said unto him, Tarry, I pray thee, here; for the Lord hath sent me to Jordan. And he said, As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And they two went on.

7-And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went, and stood to view afar off: and they two stood by Jordan.

8-And Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground.

9-And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.

10-And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so.

11-And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

12-And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces.

Elijah had never died up to this time.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:10**, And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison.

Mt 14:11. John (or we may say, Elijah), who was to come prior to Jesus, had now come and was then killed by very wicked people.

Mt 14:11. And his head was brought in a charger (or platter), and given to the damsel (or girl): and she brought (or carried) it to her mother.

(John the Baptist).....

As with most of the world today, it may be said, there is **no fear of God** before their eyes-ref Ps 36:1; Ro 3:18.

John's head was brought in a container and given to the girl. The girl, in turn, gave it to her mother. God forbid, there was no shame. There was no remorse.

The **wickedness in the heart of both the mother and girl was great.** The girl may have been beautiful on the outside, but on the inside she was a murderer. She appeared to have no conscience at all.

She had been responsible for the death of what God's Word calls the "greatest born of women"-ref Mt 11:11; Lk 7:28.

John had brought forth **God's Word of repentance and correction.** He came prior to Jesus. He was killed for the word and correction that he preached.

Reportedly, after having John put to death, the family of the Herodians would themselves experience much violence and turmoil.

Times haven't changed. God's missionaries are also being killed today in certain countries of the world.

They bring love,
the message of salvation,
and the fear of God, but are oftentimes met with hatred.

We realize the following commentary may offend some.

It was deemed necessary, because the sins that are involved are widespread among many people and are often not recognized by those that are ensnared by them.

Indeed, the Word of God does offend the unrepentant, but it corrects and sets free those that repent. And in those that break free from the bondage they are in (which they may not be aware of), there is often rejoicing afterward. However, how can there be rejoicing without repentance?

THERE IS NO DESIRE FOR GOD'S CORRECTION IN MOST PEOPLE TODAY

MOST PEOPLE are spiritually dead, but do not know it, as the darkness has blinded them.

SOME CHRISTIANS ARE SNARED OR IN BONDAGE TO SOMEONE OR SOMETHING, AND THEY DON'T RECOGNIZE IT.

And some, when confronted with their sin, will not admit it, and DO NOT WANT TO REPENT.

There is no love for God or His Word in most people.

There is no fear of God in most people.

And if they hear God's Word, it goes in one ear and out the other, **ESPECIALLY** if it covers something they do not want to repent of.

God's Word is not embedded in **MANY PEOPLE'S** heart.

Their heart may have some softness, but it can also be filled with:

the **cares of this life**,
the **deceitful of riches**,
the **pleasures of this life**,
the **lusts of many things**,

and one's own **personal, ungodly desires**.

These can include the distractions of life, power, riches, pride and lusting after **pleasures, possessions, women, food or drink**.

The Bible says that SODOM'S SINS WERE PRIDE, **GLUTTONY** AND LAZINESS in Ezek 16:49 NLT.

It is also written in Num 11:34 NLT-So that place was called Kibroth-hatioabah (which means "graves of gluttony", because they buried the people there, who had craved meat from Egypt.

Indeed, the misuse of **drugs, drunkenness** and **gluttony** (which is excessive eating; also greedy, extravagant indulgence, or being preoccupied with food and merry-making to the exclusion of other things) are **sins**.

These practices are not good for one's health. It is written, 1 Cor 6:19-20-...know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?...therefore glorify God in your body and in your Spirit, which are God's.

People **enslaved** by these sometimes need personal correction and help, but because many will not admit they have a problem, even a sin problem, they resist correction and help. Their **resistance, or denial, or fighting against biblical correction** does not come from God. **IT COMES FROM SATAN**.

Some people will and do sell their soul to fulfill their lusts.

It is written, Pv 23:1,2-WHEN THOU SITTEST TO EAT WITH A RULER, CONSIDER DILIGENTLY WHAT IS BEFORE THEE AND PUT A KNIFE TO THY THROAT IF THOU BE A

MAN GIVEN TO APPETITE. **Gluttony** is a sin, that few today will admit or repent of.

How can unconfessed sin lead to spiritual growth?

Some may say I have been this way all of my life. Yes, but now, if a person is to obey God's Word, repentance and change needs to take place, lest the person falls into deeper darkness, and then will perish.

Sin blinds people. Every saved person was blind, regarding the Bible, at one time. But then God opened their eyes to understand. It is the same with sin. Satan is behind these ungodly habits, which are sin.

Often such people need correction from their pastor, but if they cannot receive correction, they are in spiritual trouble, but are not aware of it. Satan knows how to build on any unrepentant sin, as billions in hell can testify.

The huge majority of people that are in hell know: Only a few inherit eternal life.

It is like the rich man that is in hell crying out for his brethren. He was told, in so many words, that if his brethren could not be corrected by God's Word, neither could they be corrected if one went to them from the dead-ref Lk 16:30.

In addition, in this latter day church age, biblical correction is rare.

Gluttony, compulsive gambling, pornography, and drug abuse are forms of addiction that bring pleasure to a person. Such a person cannot usually recognize he is a compulsive gambler, or dependent on drugs, or is addicted to food or porn, even when corrected. These often do not want to be

corrected. Unrepentant sin can and does take people to hell, including professing Christians.

Do you want proof?

It is difficult to correct a person that is an **excessive eater**, or **drinker**, or **gambler**, or has **lustful**, wandering eyes for women, or is **dependent on drugs**, because these things can have such a strong **hold on a person**. These are all sins that easily blind a person. The **lusts** or **desires of all sorts of things, including food, can choke God's Word**.

They are often in a state of denial, even though nearly all those around them can usually see that they have a problem. But regrettably many cannot recognize their sin, or **they don't want to admit it**.

Satan has them bound.

It is written, Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof-Ro 6:12.

A minister's job is to help a person understand they are trapped in sin, and then to encourage them to repent. The true Christian **should be grateful to their minister that may have pointed out their sin, as few preachers in these latter days will do this**.

God-fearing ministers know that sin, if not dealt with, can eventually lead a person to become hardened toward God's Word. This is especially true when it applies to someone that does not want to repent of something.

Sin causes spiritual blindness. The Bible says in Heb 3:12, 13-Take heed brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God...lest any of you

be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Finally, they perish to hell. If Satan has a foothold in one area, he can do it in other areas also. Satan can only get a foothold, if a person does not wish to obey something in the Scriptures.

If Satan was bound, as he will be during the Millennium, instantly, the person that is in a state of denial, regarding sin, would clearly see their true condition. Spiritual Christians can usually see this, but carnal or worldly Christians usually cannot.

Part of the bondage of sin in a person's life is that Satan also has the power to deceive a person into believing they are not in sin. Want proof? Many say they do not sin. The Bible says all have sinned. Satan has blinded their eyes. A **gluttonous** person may say, "I don't over eat," yet their obesity cannot be hid. This goes for all sin. Anyone that will not admit their sin is in spiritual trouble.

Not complying with traffic laws, such as speeding and not coming to full stops at stop signs **is sin**. Those that make a practice of this, the **fear of God is not in them** as it ought to be. A person's lack of fearing God is due to a lack of being in God's Word, or a lack of understanding God's Word. It can be a lack of understanding that right now people are being tested to see, if they will surrender to Jesus and obey His Word. Few do.

Beware, it appears that less than one person out of a hundred go to heaven, which seems to be supported by figures in the Bible, being compared with the estimated world's population from the beginning.

Satan's intelligence and ability to deceive is so great that he even deceived a third of God's angels-ref Rev 12:4. Satan is constantly speaking to all of us, but only those, who

immerse themselves in God's Word and obey it, can recognize this.

Most of the world is in spiritual darkness. Many do not believe that Satan exists. Of the few that do, most "greatly" underestimate Satan, even though the Bible warns about not doing this. Few fight the thoughts from Satan with God's Word, as the deceiver has greatly deceived them. This is where correction from one's minister comes in. And if that is resisted, the person may fall afterward.

Satan knows the weaknesses of each person. He knows the things that people want and like, even though the **PERSON USUALLY DOES NOT**.

It is written that Satan knows the things (which includes your desires) that be of men-Mk 8:33.

Sin can also be likened to a **man staring at a woman** and having thoughts of sex with her. Such have committed fornication or adultery already in their heart with her. It is sin, yet few preach on this and few can admit they do it. Pornography has a grip on many men. It is sin, as the Bible clearly reveals that to look on a woman to lust after her is sin-ref Mt 5:28.

No man that is married should have a need for this sin, yet some do.

Wives can also be in sin, if they defraud their husband in bed or use withholding sex to punish their husbands as some do.

It is written-1 Cor 7:5-**DEFRAUD YE NOT** one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

Even married Christians that might be impaired in some way are to obey God in this matter, unless physically unable. A bit of help from their partner in life might sometimes be

needed.

Neither a husband or a wife are to defraud the other. It is sin, and it is not of God.

Heb 13:4-Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

Complete obedience to God's Word is a shield. Lukewarm obedience to God's Word can destroy that shield and lead to eternal destruction.

Satan's job is to snare people-ref 2 Tim 2:26, and to deceive the whole world (which includes you)-ref Rev 12:9.

Most do not recognize Satan's voice in their thoughts. Most do not recognize Satan's deceptions, and most don't even believe he and the demonic realm even exists.

Satan is constantly speaking to us in our thoughts.

It seems he is constantly tempting us through things, such as lusts, difficulties or cares, pleasures, riches, and fears.

The whole world now greatly underestimates their enemy the devil, even though it is written not to do so-ref Rev 12:9; 1 Pe 5:8.

These are sometimes in deep spiritual darkness, and because they do not want to repent, they resist correction. They even resist God's Word and believe certain verses do not apply to them, or it does not mean what it says. This is a form of dishonesty.

However,
only those that **truly fear God**
and have a **childlike attitude to correction**,
only these can receive correction, regarding something that they are unaware of and something that has a tight hold or grip on them.

The more self-centered a person is (referring to Christians), the less correctable they are. That is why two people can become born again. They both study their Bible. However, the one is soft and receptive to all correction, as he wants to be more like Jesus; but the other is not so, as some sin is hindering him.

Satan can and does build on a person's lack of a childlike attitude toward correction.

Acknowledging sin and then repenting is a way of life for the born again Christian, whose heart is soft toward God's Word and correction.

Some time ago, a study was done from the Scriptures, regarding the difference between "make-believe" Christians (Christians in name only) and the real ones.

The one thing that stood out was **CORRECTION**.

The lukewarm Christian, the make-believe Christian, the so-called Christian would not be corrected or were difficult to correct. They always seem to have a come back.

The true, spiritual Christian was soft toward correction and desired it. A person that fears God and is involved in some sin, when they learn they are in sin will repent for fear that they could perish for eternity, or at least suffer a great loss of eternal rewards.

There is no place in a true Christian's life for any kind of sin, which includes **drunkenness, gambling, using drugs, and gluttony**. Any that are involved in these needs to repent.

It is written: Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand-ref Phil 4:5.

If Satan has a foothold or stronghold in a person's life, regarding **drunkenness, gambling, using drugs, or excessive eating**, he can usually (sooner or later) find a second foothold. Beware and fear God, for many are called, but few are chosen. The few that are chosen are called good and faithful servants.

Mt 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.

Lk 12:5 But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.

The **sin** of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is unforgivable.

But what about a person that will not repent of some known sin?

If repentance does not take place, how can they be forgiven? Is forgiveness automatic with no repentance?

Through Christ and our faith, and through our personal repentance and obedience to God's Word, we can overcome--"**IF THEY HAVE THE FAITH AND DESIRE TO REPENT.**"

If a person cannot see their sin through God's Word and by the power of the Holy Spirit, then their elders or pastor may be called to correct them.

The ultimate goal of correction is to help a person recover from their sin (or obsession) (or addiction) that causes spiritual blindness. It is not condemnation, but correction.

As a person backslides (not a doer of the Word), they forget what manner of person they were when they were saved-ref Ja 1:23,24.

They no longer remember where they were spiritually or how they ought to be in all holy conversation and godliness-ref 2 Pe 3:11, as their spiritual memory is erased. Many are unaware of this.

However, when a person repents, they can still remember their sin, even though God does not, because the **blood of Christ** washes it away. It cleanses the sinner from all sin through Jesus Christ.

Excuses are not pleasing to God.

Excuses are not repentance.

Obedience to God's Word is pleasing to God.

To those reading or hearing this message, do not let your desire for anything be more important than obeying God's Word. Willful **sin of any kind** can choke out God's Word, so that it has no effect on a person. And if God's Word cannot correct a person, then how can repentance come forth and a person grow spiritually? Beware of being offended when God's Word corrects you, which is for your good.

Lk 21:34-36-And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.

Deut 8:6-Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him.

Ex 18:21-Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God,

Mt 14:12. And his (John's) disciples came, and took up (or took away) the body, and buried it, and (then) (they) went and told (or reported to) Jesus.

men of truth, hating covetousness.

Eccl 12:13-Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Many people, by God's mercy, come to this website. We hope and are trusting that our honest and straight forward teaching, even as Jesus taught, will help many people grow in the wisdom and knowledge of the Lord. We are hoping that, as God's Word reveals to people their sins and bondages, that they will be set free.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:11**. And his head (that is John's) was brought in a charger (or platter), and given to the damsel (or girl): and she brought (or carried) it to her mother.

Mt 14:12. What a sad time for John's disciples. They came and took up the body of John.

Then they buried it.

Then they went to where Jesus was and told Him what they knew.

John's head is not mentioned.

The record of the end of John's life is also in Mark 6:14-29, and Lk 9:7-9.

The end of a friend's life, or of a parent, or a spouse can be devastating. There is comfort to be found, if that person had put their trust in the Lord and was deeply involved in God's Word, for such should be dwelling in heaven.

If the deceased person had not been in Christ, then little can be said. Seek ye the Lord with all your heart.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:12**. And his (John's) disciples came, and took up (or took

Chronologically the end of Mt 14:12 goes to Mk 6:14, which is 29 months into the ministry of Jesus.

Chronologically Mk 6:14 goes to Mk 6:29.

Chronologically Mk 6:29 goes to Lk 9:7.

Chronologically Lk 9:7 goes to Lk 9:9.

Chronologically Lk 9:9 goes to Mt 14:13.

Chronologically Mt 14:13 goes to Mt 14:21.

The ministry of Jesus began when He was about 30 years of age.
It lasted approximately 3 years.

Matthew 14:13-21 takes place approximately 30 months after He began His ministry.

Mt 14:13. (Now) When Jesus heard of it (or heard what had happened), he departed (or withdrew) thence (or from there) by ship (or a boat) into a desert (or lonely) (or solitary) place apart (by himself): and when the people (or multitudes) had heard thereof (or heard of this), they followed him on foot out of (or from) the cities (or towns).

away) the body, and buried it, and (then) (they) went and told (or reported to) Jesus.

Mt 14:13. After these things happened, the news reached Jesus about John being killed. Perhaps, this is why he departed. It was not yet the time for Jesus to be arrested.

Then He departed from where He was. He traveled by boat on the Sea of Galilee. He was alone. The disciples were not with Him in the boat.

The Sea of Galilee is about 33 miles in circumference. It is approximately 13 miles long and 8.1 miles wide at its widest point. It is 64.4 square miles and 141 feet deep at its deepest point.

Jesus landed in a deserted place, in a desert area. He was by Himself.

But many heard the news of where He was located. Then they walked around the Sea of

Mt 14:14. And (when) Jesus went forth (or landed) (ashore), and (He) saw a great multitude (or crowd), and was moved with (or felt) compassion toward (or for) them, and he healed their sick.

Mt 14:15. And (as evening approached), when it was evening, his (or the) disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert (or desolate) (or

Galilee to where He was. The people came to Him from the cities and towns, and many came from long distances.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:13**, (Now) When Jesus heard of it (or heard what had happened), he departed (or withdrew) thence (or from there) by ship (or a boat) into a desert (or lonely) (or solitary) place apart (by himself): and when the people (or multitudes) had heard thereof (or heard of this), they followed him on foot out of (or from) the cities (or towns).

Mt 14:14. Jesus went ashore and got out of the boat.

When He did, there was already a great number of people there, and more would have been coming. It was not easy for Jesus to find solitude. His fame had spread far and wide.

Jesus had compassion for them. Jesus had deep emotions. He could feel their sorrows. He can feel what they felt.

Jesus knows your emotions, your hurts, your desires, even all your thoughts. Are your thoughts pure, or are they filled with anger, hate, and mistrust? Do you love God, or are you upset with God? Do you really understand Jesus? Read your Bible faithfully, and often.

God has compassion on you when you are in need. He proceeded to heal their sick. The number He healed is unknown.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:14**, And (when) Jesus went forth (or landed) (ashore), and (He) saw a great multitude (or crowd), and was moved with (or felt) compassion toward (or for) them, and he healed their sick.

Mt 14:15. As the time passed, the evening was approaching.

remote) place, and the time is now (already) past; (or it's already getting late) (so) send the multitude (or multitudes) (or crowds) away, (so) that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals (or food).

Mt 14:16. But Jesus said (or replied) unto them, They need not depart (or go away); give ye (or you) them (something) to eat.

His disciples came to Him. They told Him that **this was a deserted or remote place**. They told Him that the time was getting late. They advised Him to send the crowd away to the nearby towns or villages, so that they could buy some food.

This tells us, they are in a remote of deserted place.

It also tells us, there were villages that were near, which should have had enough food for this huge number of people. This indicates that at least one of the villages would have been of a fairly large population, and the stores would have still been open.

It is believed that this miracle took place in the area of Bethsaida-ref Mt 9:10, which is located on the northern side of the Sea of Galilee.

The time of the year appears to have been before the Passover-ref Jn 6:4. This appears to be the only miracle that Jesus did which appears in all four Gospels.

It reflects or is symbolic that Jesus would be feeding the multitudes with spiritual food.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:15**, And (as evening approached), when it was evening, his (or the) disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert (or desolate) (or remote) place, and the time is now (already) past; (or it's already getting late) (so) send the multitude (or multitudes) (or crowds) away, (so) that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals (or food).

Mt 14:16. The response of Jesus was not what they expected.

Jesus told them that the people did not need to depart. He told His disciples that they should give the crowd something to eat. He did not

Mt 14:17. And they say (or said) (or answered) unto him, We have here but (or only) five loaves (of bread), and two fishes.

say, "I" will do it.

In telling His disciples "give ye them to eat," it may be said that it was not only then, but it was what was to be in the future. The apostles would begin spreading the Gospel far and wide. Eventually, the Gospel would spread all over the world.

What Jesus said must have astonished the disciples. How could they feed such a huge, hungry crowd? It wasn't possible.

At this time, they didn't really understand that Jesus was God. They had no idea that with Jesus nothing was impossible.

They had no idea that Jesus could speak and food could be multiplied. They had no idea that Jesus could speak and move mountains. They did not comprehend, that this was God that had come down from heaven.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:16**, But Jesus said (or replied) unto them, They need not depart (or go away); give ye (or you) them (something) to eat.

Mt 14:17. Then the disciples began to make excuses. They told Jesus that they only had five loaves of bread and two fish. This came from a lad, which appears to have had his lunch with him-ref Jn 6:9.

They knew that it would be impossible to feed this huge crowd with so little. They did not ask Jesus what He wanted them to do. All that was done was done openly and simply, so the miracle that was to take place would be clearly seen and understood.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:17**, And they say (or said) (or answered) unto him, We have here but (or only) five loaves (of bread), and two fishes.

Mt 14:18. (And) He said, Bring them hither (or here) to me.

Mt 14:19. And he commanded (or ordered) (or directed) the multitude (or multitudes) (or people) to sit down (or recline) on the grass, and (He) took the five loaves, and the two fishes (or fish), and looking up to (or toward) heaven, he (gave thanks), blessed (the food) (or loaves), and brake (or breaking) (the loaves), and (He) gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples (gave) to the multitude.

Mt 14:18. Then Jesus speaking to His disciples told them to bring the loaves and fish to Him. This was 5 loaves and 2 fish.

The disciples were probably wondering what He was up to. At this time, they did not fully comprehend this was God Himself, and there was nothing He could not do.

They obeyed what Jesus had told them to do.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:18**, (And) He said, Bring them hither (or here) to me.

Mt 14:19. The feeding of the multitude was also an indication that in the future, many would be fed with the bread of life. The bread of life is God's Word.

Now consider, there were many people. Some would have undoubtedly been talking to each other, so the noise would have been somewhat loud.

Whether the disciples had told the multitude to be quiet is not known.

Jesus seemingly would have spoken in a very loud voice to the people to sit down. However, as one translation uses the word "directed," it may be He told His disciples to get the crowd to sit.

This would indicate that at least some of the multitude were standing. At this command, the message was probably repeated from those nearby to those far away, as such a large number of people would have covered a large area. For such a multitude to hear and sit down would have taken a bit of time. Some probably sat down, and some probably laid down to relax.

The Scripture indicates that it was an area of

grass, not of sand or dirt. This would indicate it was not on the beach of the Sea of Galilee, but a bit away. It also seems to indicate that it was not near Capernaum, which is on the northwestern side.

Regarding the Sea of Galilee, there are mountains on the **eastern side**.

On the **northeastern** side, the Jordan River enters the Sea of Galilee. The land there has some hills.

On the northern side, there are rolling hills.

On the northwestern side, there are hills and the remains of the city of **Capernaum**, where Jesus spent much of His time. There is also a synagogue that has been restored dating back to perhaps not long after Jesus was there.

This is also where some of the apostles lived.

On the western side there are also hills, and on the lower western side is the city of Tiberias, which is built on a hill.

The longest sides are the eastern and western.

On the southern side, there is a valley where the Jordan River exits the Sea of Galilee and flows southward toward the Dead Sea.

This is also the place today where people can get baptized in the Jordan River in a very nice specially designed setting built for that purpose. Even robes can be provided. Hundreds of thousands of people have been baptized there. There is also a large gift shop at this location. On the opposite side of the Jordan, one might see some cows.

Today along some parts of the Sea of Galilee, there are cabins, and in Tiberias, there are

hotels and lots of boats Israeli sightseeing tours often stay one night somewhere on or near the Sea of Galilee.

Maagan was among the nicest areas we know of on the Sea of Galilee.

Boat rides with entertainment across the Sea of Galilee are part of most tours. All sorts of water sports can sometimes be seen on the Sea. At times, there may be winds blowing from the northwestern area of the Sea.

The area that the feeding took place appears to have been around Bethsaida, on the northern part of the sea-ref Lk 9:10. It is near the place that the upper Jordan enters the Sea of Galilee.

Mark's Gospel (6:40) indicates that the people were told to sit down in companies of hundreds and fifties.

Commentary on Mt 14:19 continues.

Then Jesus took the **five** loaves and the **two** fish. The verse did not indicate if the loaves and the fish were in or on a vessel of some kind. The five and two is seven. This is the number of God, which is perfection.

The size of the loaves and fish is also not given. Jesus then looked toward heaven, or He looked upward and blessed the food, which would have been both the bread and fish, although some translations only mention the loaves.

There are two levels of God's Word. One is the milk of the Word, which is the **basic doctrines**, or what we may also call the foundation.

The other is the meat of God's Word, which is **perfection**-ref Heb 6:1. Few in this last church

age ever arrive at this stage.

Then Jesus broke the loaves into pieces. The fishes are not mentioned.

Jesus said in Jn 6:35 and 6:48: I am the Bread of Life.

Then Jesus gave the pieces of bread to His disciples. The disciples then gave them to the multitude. Again, the fishes are not mentioned.

Jesus gave God's Word to the apostles. They gave it to the people.

Today, the Bible, which is Jesus (He is the Word) has been given to many. They should share God's Word with others.

However, many Bibles collect dust or are only used to post important dates in.

Woe to that person that has the Word of God, but hides it. When a person wants to tell others about Jesus, what happens? A spiritual battle takes place. Fear often comes up in a person's stomach and fearful thoughts emerge. Faith overcomes, but faith only comes through hearing or reading God's Word. Most people are biblically ignorant. Hell awaits many, but heaven shall have only a few in comparison.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:19**, And he commanded (or ordered) (or directed) the multitude (or multitudes) (or people) to sit down (or recline) on the grass, and (He) took the five loaves, and the two fishes (or fish), and looking up to (or toward) heaven, he (gave thanks), blessed (the food) (or loaves), and brake (or breaking) (the loaves), and (He) gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples (gave) to the multitude.

Mt 14:20. And they did all eat, and were filled (or satisfied): and they (the disciples) took (or picked) up of the fragments (or broken pieces)

Mt 14:20. Not only did all the people eat, but they ate abundantly, so that they were filled and satisfied. In other words, they all had the

that remained (or were left over) twelve baskets full.

opportunity to eat large amounts of food abundantly.

Consider, they began with 5 loaves of bread and two fish.

Then the disciples took up the broken pieces or fragments that remained.

Consider, they ended with twelve baskets full of broken pieces that were leftover. It was not only 12 baskets that were taken up, but they were completely full. One might even say they were about to overflow.

These would seem to have been large baskets in order to have accomplished what was done. Yet the word from which it is translated suggests these were smaller baskets.

The huge amount of "broken" pieces leftover can represent the huge numbers of false religions, doctrines, and ideas that have since broken off from the pure words of the Bible-ref Mt 16:12.

And now, God forbid, in these latter days there seems to be more and more preachers that teach with men's words only and no Scripture at all. And many people seem to love to have it so. As already shown, God's **pure** Word, which is the Bible, is not popular in these latter days.

The disciples had to keep returning to Jesus for more to feed the people. How about you? Do you make God's Word your necessary food, or do you feed on men's words while your Bible collects dust?

The number twelve is used in God's Word many times. Here are a few.

12 apostles or disciples
12 baskets of fragments

Mt 14:21. And they (the number of those) that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside (the) women and children.

12 gates
12 hours in a day
12 hours in the night
12 legions of angels
12 manner of fruit--tree of life
12 Patriarchs
12 pearls
12,000 sealed in the Tribulation from each tribe
12 thrones
12 tribes of Israel
12 years--the woman had an issue of blood.

As it has been said in Mt 14:20, And they did all eat, and were filled (or satisfied): and they (the disciples) took (or picked) up of the fragments (or broken pieces) that remained (or were left over) twelve baskets full.

Mt 14:21. The number of **men** that had eaten was about 5000.

One might consider that the number of **women** that were there could have been that many or more.

And the number of **children** that might have been there could have been nearly equal to the number of women or perhaps more. Some women might have brought more than one child.

So, we might estimate the total number of people that was there that ate was between 12,000 to 18,000. Some believe it may have been closer to 20,000.

As Jesus fed them worldly food, His mission was to feed them God's Word, which is spiritual food to save their soul. **What if a man gains the whole world, but loses his own soul?** The rich man in hell cried out in concern for his brethren, because he knew they would also be coming to hell when they died-ref Lk 16:22-31.

Chronologically Mt 14:21 goes to Mk 6:30.

Chronologically Mk 6:30 goes to Mk 6:44.

Chronologically Mk 6:44 goes to Lk 9:10.

Chronologically Lk 9:10 goes to Lk 9:17.

Chronologically Lk 9:17 goes to Jn 6:1.

Chronologically Jn 6:1 goes to Jn 6:13.

Chronologically Jn 6:13 goes to Mt 14:22.

The time period is still 30 months into the ministry of Jesus.

Mt 14:22. And straightway (or immediately) Jesus constrained (or made) his disciples to get into a ship (or boat), and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away (or dismissed the crowd).

As it has been said in **Mt 14:21**, And they (the number of those) that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside (the) women and children.

Mt 14:22. Once the people had finished eating, then Jesus separated Himself from His disciples.

First, Jesus made His disciples get into a boat. Thus, we note that the feeding took place near the Sea of Galilee and was probably on the western side, but maybe the northern side. Capernaum is on the northwestern side. Today, the excavated remains of Capernaum is part of most sightseeing tours to Israel.

There were also some other towns on the western side, which no longer exist.

Jesus made them (the disciples) to go ahead of Him to the other side. He apparently was specific, because the disciples seemed to know exactly where to go on the other side. As already shown, the entire coastline of the Sea of Galilee is about 33 miles.

Then Jesus sent the huge crowd away. One

can imagine this huge crowd of many thousands departing.

Again, this indicates that it was still daytime, not nighttime. On the eastern side of the Sea of Galilee are high cliffs that lead up to the Golan Heights. This is an area that Syria wants, because it is a high plateau looking down on the Sea of Galilee and northern Israel. Even today there is a large somewhat rusted out machine gun there that has been left behind. From this elevated position, Israel's enemies can kill the Jews and others that are around the Sea of Galilee.

This is why this part of Israel is so much in the news. Israel's enemies want it, so they can easily kill the Jews in this area.

The Land of Israel

The Jews come from the lineage of Isaac.

Many Arabs come from lineage of Ishmael.

Each claims that the land of Israel is theirs, as they are both the firstborn of Abraham.

Isaac was born of the free woman.

Ishmael was born of the bond woman Hagar.

The firstborn was to receive the Promised Land, which is now called Israel.

This part of Israel that is around the Sea of Galilee, which includes Capernaum, plus northern Israel, is where much of the ministry of Jesus took place.

As it is written in **Mt 14:22**, And straightway (or immediately) Jesus constrained (or made) his disciples to get into a ship (or boat), and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away (or dismissed the crowd).

Mt 14:23. The disciples were already departed, reference verse 22.

Jesus then sent the large multitude away. Then Jesus went up into a mountain.

Mt 14:23. And when (or after) he had sent the multitudes away (or dismissed them), he went up into a mountain (or went up into the hills) (by himself) apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

When the multitude had come, they were hungry. Many had been sick. Now they had been filled with food. In addition, those that were sick had been healed. Regretfully, few will come to Jesus in these latter days. And when many go to today's churches, they find very little of God's Word being taught anymore. At best, they may hear a few verses, and then much talking. The teaching of God's Word has been replaced with what pleases the people, but it does not please God.

There are no tall mountains in this area. They would be considered as hills. Jesus was alone. Then He prayed. As the evening came, He was still alone.

The highest mountain or land in this area might be the Golan Heights. It varies in elevation. At the highest point, it may be 1779 feet above the Sea of Galilee.

If Jesus Himself found it needful to pray to His Father alone, how much more should every true Christian pray in the same manner? The Lord's prayer is a **daily prayer**, not a now and then prayer. The Lord's prayer can be coupled with one's personal confession of sin and requests to God, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:23**, And when (or after) he had sent the multitudes away (or dismissed them), he went up into a mountain (or went up into the hills) (by himself) apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

Chronologically Mt 14:23 goes to Mk 6:45.

Chronologically Mk 6:45 goes to Mk 6:46.

Chronologically Mk 6:46 goes to Jn 6:14.

Chronologically Jn 6:14 goes to Jn 6:15.

Chronologically Jn 6:15 goes to Mt 14:24.

Time period is app. 30 months into the ministry of Jesus;

Mt 14:24. But the ship (or boat) was now (already) in the midst of the sea (many stadia) (or a considerable distance) away from the land), tossed (or battered) (or buffeted) with (or by) (the) waves: for (or because) the wind was contrary (or against it).

Mt 14:24. Now the verse reverts back to the disciples.

Back in verse 22, Jesus had told His disciples to get into a boat and go to the other side of the sea, which is what some might view as a large lake.

The Sea of Galilee is also called the Lake Kinneret, or lake of Kinnereth, or lake of Tiberias, or Gennesaret.

It is about 53 km in circumference. It is about 21 km long and 13 km wide at its widest point. It is reportedly 686 feet below sea level. It is the lowest fresh water lake in the world. Its height varies a bit from year to year, according to the amount of water that flows into it from the upper Jordan, which gets its water from the snows on Mt. Hermon. Mt. Hermon is Israel's tallest mountain at 9232 feet.

Reportedly, the Sea of Galilee has 125 hotels.

Now, it appears the disciples were a long way from any shore. The winds arose.

Regarding the Sea of Galilee, there is a pass or opening in the mountains. It is on the northwestern side. Sometimes strong winds can come from that direction and stir up the waters.

Regarding the Sea of Galilee, there are now sometimes quite a few boats of nearly every description on the lake.

There is also water-skiing and water sports.

Some come from the area of Tiberias, which is on the lower western shore. It is a beautiful view to look across the sea at night and see all the lights from the western or south-western side.

If one wants to put their feet in the water or go for a swim, it is easier to do so from the eastern or southeastern side, or at Capernaum or other locations on the western side. In many locations fences make it difficult to enter the Sea of Galilee.

By the way, if anyone finds a sandal floating on the sea, it might belong to someone we know. It came off their foot and floated away.

Another note. Israeli hotels have a free breakfast. They vary in size, but some are very good with a large variety of things to eat.

Regarding the sea being stirred up, this can be symbolic of a Christian.

He can get over-burdened or weighted down, or **tossed back and forth** with many things. To the Christian, it can sometimes seem like he may drown in the flood that is hitting him. He may be tossed back and forth:

- with the cares of this life,
- the deceitfulness of riches,
- the lusts of all sorts of things,
- the pleasures of this life,
- medical issues and sickness,
- or the death of a loved one.

During much of a person's life, there is a battle going on for their soul. Satan has the whole world to use to distract a person from Jesus.

Will a person follow Satan and the ways of the world, or will they be one of the few that break free and obey God's Word?

The battle, between Satan filling our heads

with things versus God's Word, is one that is to be fought by every person.

The very foolish person that does not go to one of the very few good Bible-teaching churches and does not devour God's Word, may have already sold his soul to Satan.

What is a man profited, if he gain the whole world for 80 years, but loses their soul for eternity?

As already said, the stormy winds can represent what the person goes through once he has given his life to Jesus, but Jesus can calm the worst of storms, and He (the Word) can give the person the power to endure.

Immersing oneself in God's Word should build faith, which can strengthen the born again Christian. **Few Christians** in this last generation **devour God's Word, as they ought**, and so when the storms come, they are carried away without even realizing they are spiritually lifeless.

As needs to be said, over and over: Faith only comes from devouring God's Word. Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God-Ro 10:17. It has been said, No one really believes they will go to the lake of fire after death; or if they do believe they are going there, they have no idea how truly horrifying and dreadful it will be. Yet, the Bible, which cannot lie, reveals to us those that do perish is nearly everyone. Only a few will escape hell fire. If you do not desire to read and study God's Word often, then neither do you desire to be with Jesus, Who is the Word of God.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:24**, But the ship (or boat) was now (already) in the midst of the sea (many stadia) (or a considerable distance) away from the land), tossed (or battered) (or buffeted) with (or by) (the) waves: for (or

Mt 14:25. And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went (out) unto them, walking on the sea (or lake).

Mt 14:26. And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea (or lake), they were troubled (or frightened) (or terrified), saying, It is a spirit (or ghost); and they cried out for (or in) fear.

because) the wind was contrary (or against it).

Mt 14:25. The fourth watch is mentioned in the Scriptures. The Jews, as well as many others, divided the night into parts or military watches rather than into hours and minutes.

There was the beginning of watches-ref Lam 2:19. The middle watch-ref Judges 7:19, and others.

These various watches were:

6 to 9 pm,

9 pm to midnight,

Midnight to 3 am, and

3 am to 6 am, the fourth watch.

It was between 3 am and 6 am, when Jesus walked on the Sea of Galilee, even though the waves were high because of the winds.

Also Jn 6:19 indicates they had gone about 25 to 30 furlongs, or perhaps three and a half miles.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:25**, And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went (out) unto them, walking on the sea (or lake).

Mt 14:26. The disciples saw Jesus walking on the sea. This indicates that the moon may have been very bright that night, but as verse 30 shows us there was a lot of wind.

The disciples were very terrified, when they saw this. They seemed to have all kinds of thoughts, including that what they were seeing was a ghost or spirit, or perhaps something else. However, the wind and waves were having no effect on Jesus.

There was probably much loud talking among themselves. They were afraid as they cried out. There should have been much noise of the splashing of the waves also. They seemed fearful for their very lives.

The waves can also represent how troubled a Christian can get when the waves or difficulty of the many things of the world trouble each of us.

Sometimes the difficulty of what we don't understand can trouble us as much as the difficulty of what we do understand.

Satan uses fear. Even Jesus was troubled as He knew what was ahead before His death. He was to take the sins of all that would trust in Him, both then and in the future. The full wrath of Satan working through his people would result in Jesus being marred worse than any man. It was a miracle that Jesus could speak after what He endured for all that loved Him.

To those that try to follow Jesus apart from hearing or dwelling in His Word, their future is darkness.

Only Jesus and Peter ever walked on the water in the Scriptures.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:26**, And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea (or lake), they were troubled (or frightened) (or terrified), saying, It is a spirit (or ghost); and they cried out for (or in) fear.

Mt 14:27. Jesus saw the disciples. He saw they were afraid. Immediately, He sought to comfort them. Jesus spoke to them telling them to have courage, because it was He they were looking at. Because of the noise, Jesus would have spoken loudly.

As with all that follow Jesus, it is better to look at Jesus and God's Word, which can solve the problems, than it is to look at the problems before us and be terrified.

With Jesus present, fear should diminish.

Mt 14:27. But straightway (or immediately) Jesus spake (or said) unto them, saying, Be of good cheer (or take courage); it is I; be not (or don't be) afraid.

Jesus cannot only handle the situation, He can rise above it. Jesus had tarried for a time, but now He was present.

All that follow Jesus should go through many things. Some may be killed for their faith in Christ. In some parts of the world right now, people are being tortured and are dying for their faith in Christ. How small a person's faith is that turns aside because of lusts, or the cares of this life, or the deceitfulness of riches, or because of pleasures.

Life is a test to see if our faith is real or not. During the second part of the Tribulation, many will have to make a choice of being beheaded for Christ or worshipping the image of the Antichrist.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:27**, But straightway (or immediately) Jesus spake (or said) unto them, saying, Be of good cheer (or take courage); it is I; be not (or don't be) afraid.

Mt 14:28. And Peter answered him and said (or replied), Lord, if it be thou (or if it is you), bid (or command) (or tell) me come unto thee (or you) on the water.

Mt 14:28. It appears, the first one to speak was Peter. He seemed to be the most outgoing of all the disciples. He also seemed to be less timid.

Peter first asks Jesus a question. That question was, "If it be you." He did not immediately, fully acknowledge it was Jesus.

Peter attached to the "IF", tell me to come to you on the water.

Peter did not say let me walk on the water. He said command me to come unto thee. This is what all should do. Come to Jesus.

That was indeed an unusual request. It seems that he **did** believe it was Jesus as he called him "Lord." Yet he seemed a bit unsure.

It is believed that many things that were said

by the apostles that are recorded in the Bible were undoubtedly prompted by the Spirit of God. As such, they would become part of the New Testament.

Now Peter is requesting that Jesus enable him to do the same thing Jesus was doing—that is, walking on the water. But even more than this, the water was not calm. There would have been noise from the wind and the waves splashing up.

Regarding the boat they were in, in Israel an ancient boat that was submerged in the sand was discovered at the Sea of Galilee. Some believe it may have been a boat such as Jesus and the apostles might have used. It does date back to the times of Jesus. It has been restored and is on display in a museum at Kibbutz Ginosar in Israel.

Peter's occupation was a fisherman. He appeared to be in no way special. He could be inconsistent, first going one way and then another. Sometimes he would be afraid, and at other times he seemed fearless. Sometimes he would waver, but other times he would not.

One moment, he sought to go back to his fishing occupation, yet he was the first to reach the tomb of Jesus. Another time, he was rebuked by Paul.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:28**, And Peter answered him and said (or replied), Lord, if it be thou (or if it is you), bid (or command) (or tell) me come unto thee (or you) on the water.

Mt 14:29. Jesus then spoke back to Peter. He told Peter to "come."

Peter now believed that Jesus would enable him to do what was seemingly impossible.

Peter got out of the boat. As he touched his

Mt 14:29. And he said, Come. And (then) when Peter was come down out of the ship (or boat), he walked on the water, to go to (or came toward) Jesus.

Mt 14:30. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried (out), saying, Lord, save me.

feet on the water, he did not sink. What was impossible was happening. Peter, like Jesus, walked on the water, and the waves did not affect what he was doing. He walked by faith, that is, by trusting in the words that Jesus spoke, as all Christians are to do.

As long as he kept his focus on Jesus, all was all right.

One might note that no other disciple joined Peter.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:29**, And he said, Come. And (then) when Peter was come down out of the ship (or boat), he walked on the water, to go to (or came toward) Jesus.

Mt 14:30. As long as Peter kept his eyes and thoughts centered on Jesus, he walked on the water.

Has any other religion in the history of the world enabled someone to walk on the water? No. Man-made religions number perhaps 25,000. They are just as said—man-made. But Christ is come in the flesh. He is God.

But then Peter started to notice the wind that it was kicking up the waves, and the sea was raging, and the noise was loud. He got his eyes off Jesus and that Jesus had told him to come.

He started looking at the problem rather than the problem solver. The more he looked at the waves roaring, the more he began to sink, it appears. His faith was wavering.

He began to be afraid. That fear began to override his trust in what Jesus had said. Then his feet began to sink more into the water, which was very, very deep. At its deepest point, it is about 141 feet, which is on the

Mt 14:31. And immediately Jesus (reached out), stretched forth his hand, and caught him (or took hold of him), and said unto him, O thou (or you) of little faith, wherefore didst thou (or why did you) doubt?

mountain side and about two-thirds of the way north.

Then Peter did as all Christians need to do, he cried out to Jesus. Peter undoubtedly shouted. The wind and waves would have been noisy.

Peter cried, Lord save me. All people should do this, but few do.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:30**, But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried (out), saying, Lord, save me.

Mt 14:31. The first two words of this verse are comforting. They are "And immediately."

Immediately, Jesus reached out his hand and caught Peter as he began to sink. As Jesus took hold of Peter, he began to speak. He told Peter that he had little faith. Little faith is faith that also has doubts. Then Jesus said, "Why did you **doubt**?" Remember how Satan had said, "Hath God said" to Eve trying to cause her to have doubts?-ref Gen 3:1.

Consider the following. There will be no doubts during the Millennium reign of Jesus Christ. This is because Satan will be sealed, so he cannot speak to us in our thoughts.

Satan puts doubts in our thoughts. This is one of the things he was created to do. Then when he sows things in our mind that can cause doubts, our mind has to decide what we will believe.

If a person's faith is firm through being faithfully in God's Word, the doubting thoughts should be extinguished.

If our faith is lukewarm, our faith might be as Peter's.

If our faith is small, we should sink immediately as pressure comes on us as we follow Jesus.

Christians in today's generation are mostly no better than lukewarm. Some may read their Bible very little. Some may read other Christian books about the Bible, but the Bible itself collects dust.

Only God's pure Word can build faith in a person. Many of the so-called Christians today are very deceived by the lukewarm preaching that contains many words, but little Scripture. Preachers that preach what people's ears want to hear generally seem to prosper. God forbid.

Many begin to follow Jesus. But as a multitude of different kinds of pressures come against us, most finally fall away. However, they don't realize this is the case as the increasing darkness and lack of biblical conviction blinds them.

That needs to be repeated. The increasing darkness a backsliding Christian goes through prevents him from understanding he has backslidden. Nevertheless, other strong Christians around them can sometimes see it more clearly.

So the backslider continues to believe they will be in heaven. Then they die or are not raptured. Some were so sure they were saved, that they argue with Jesus, but Jesus says, I know you not.

As already said, keep your focus on Jesus and His Word, and your faith should stand. Keep your focus on circumstances and situations, and you may sink. The battle is in your thoughts.

Double-mindedness is not a single mind

Mt 14:32. And when they were come (or climbed) into the ship (or boat), the wind ceased (or died down) (or stopped).

grounded in "faith" in Jesus, Who is the Word. Faith needs to be unwavering.

Does your faith prompt you to totally repent?
Are you faithfully in God's Word daily?
Are you a doer of God's Word daily?
Do you fast?
Do you serve God according to His Word?
Or are you a do nothing Christian, when it comes to serving God?

Jesus told Peter to come. He had not told the others to do it.

It needs to be remembered that we are to follow Christ. He is God. We are His servants.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:31**, And immediately Jesus stretched forth (or reached out), his hand, and caught him (or took hold of him), and said unto him, O thou (or you) of little faith, wherefore didst thou (or why did you) doubt?

Mt 14:32. Then Peter continued to walk on the water. Finally, Peter and Jesus got back into the boat. Even getting back into the boat may have been a bit difficult with the waves roaring and winds blowing.

The wind continued until they did.

Then the wind stopped or died down.

As soon as they received him into the ship, then immediately the ship was at the land whither they went-ref Jn 6:21.

The winds can also symbolize the many trials and problems and hindrances a born again Christian may go through.

These can include, but are not limited to, the following.

Persecutions can come because of God's Word, which can come from just being a Christian that does not hide it. It can come as a person goes forth to do God's work. It can come when someone sees you with a Bible. Do you carry one with you, or are you ashamed? It can come if you speak of God's Word, when you are around people, even your relatives.

Other trials and hindrances as regarding God's word or your personal relationship with Jesus can come because of:

- your light shining before people,
- the cares of this life and world,
- the deceitfulness of riches,
- the pleasures and desires for the pleasures of this world and of your life,
- the lusts and desires and cravings of all sorts of things.

The power of Satan to hinder or stop a person from following Jesus can include prison and death. Many, in certain countries, are in prison for speaking of Christ and for having a Bible. They have been beaten and tortured in ways that are almost beyond belief.

People in free countries, such as the United States, may not go through such persecutions. Yet the more their light shines, the more resistance from Satan working through people, they may receive.

Satan uses all of these to tempt a person to turn away from God.

Life is a test to see to what degree a born again Christian will follow God as many problems and obstacles confront them.

Those persecuting a Christian will have an eternal destiny in the lake of fire, and before that, can expect to be beaten with many stripes whose torment will last forever and ever.

Mt 14:33. Then they (or those) that were in the ship (or boat) came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou (or you) art (certainly) the Son of God.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:32**, And when they were come (or climbed) into the ship (or boat), the wind ceased (or died down) (or stopped).

Mt 14:33. Jesus had demonstrated that He had complete control over the **weather**.

But more than this, He had shown He had control of **gravity**. Gravity will not permit a person to walk on water.

Previously, He had shown He had complete control of **creating things**. The multiplication of food is just one example.

He had shown clearly that He is God. Indeed, Jesus is to be worshipped. As those that were in the boat said, "Of a truth thou (or you) art (certainly) the Son of God." Jesus accepted their worship. They recognized that this was the Messiah that should come.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:33**, Then they (or those) that were in the ship (or boat) came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou (or you) art (certainly) the Son of God.

Just a note to consider.

The deceptive powers of Satan are such, that he causes many people to disbelieve the Bible and ignore it.

How can people fight against Satan, if they do not believe he exists; yet, he is in your mind?

How can an army defend or fight an adversary that they do not believe exists?

Chronologically Mt 14:33 goes to Mk 6:47.

Still approximately 30 months into the ministry of Jesus.

Chronologically Mk 6:47 goes to Mk 6:52.

Chronologically Mk 6:52 goes to Jn 6:16.

Chronologically Jn 6:16 goes to Jn 6:21.

Chronologically Jn 6:21 goes to Mt 14:34.

Mt 14:34. And when they were gone (or crossed) over, they came (or landed) into the land of Gennesaret.

Mt 14:35. And when the men of that place had knowledge of (or recognized) him (Jesus), they sent out (word) into all that country round about (or into all the surrounding district), and (people) brought unto him all that were diseased (or sick);

Mt 14:34. Finally, they crossed over a part of the Sea of Galilee and came ashore in the land of **Gennesaret**. Note Gennesaret is a land.

The first part of the name means *garden*.

This is a plain that extends for about 3 miles. It is south of Capernaum on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee.

It has rich soil and is well watered. Grapes, figs, walnuts, olives, and palms do well here. These flourish here though they require special conditions.

As already shown, much of the ministry of Jesus was in the area surrounding the Sea of Galilee. Thus, many of the people there should have been involved with some kind of farming, or fishing, or boat-making, or some form of commerce related to these.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:34**, And when they were gone (or crossed) over, they came (or landed) into the land of Gennesaret.

Mt 14:35. Jesus' reputation had grown. Thus, when Jesus arrived there, He was recognized. As He was recognized, the people of that area quickly sent out notices to the surrounding areas. They had no way to know, if He would be there a short time or longer.

As a result of Jesus being there, many were brought to Him that were sick and diseased.

As Jesus traveled, His disciples would have

Mt 14:36. And (they) besought him (or began to entreat Him) that they might only touch the hem (or fringe) of his garment (or cloak): and as many as touched (or all who touched) (it) (or him) were made perfectly whole (or were cured) (or healed).

been with Him most of the time.

Although the Scriptures mention the twelve, there were about one hundred and twenty that also followed Jesus for the entire time, from when Jesus was baptized by John to the time Jesus was later taken away from them.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:35**, And when the men of that place had knowledge of (or recognized) him (Jesus), they sent out (word) into all that country round about (or into all the surrounding district), and (people) brought unto him all that were diseased (or sick);

Mt 14:36. Multitudes of people came to see and hear Jesus.

Some of these areas were heavily populated. The crowds were sometimes very large as can be seen by the number of people Jesus fed.

Many came to be healed of all kinds of diseases and other things.

Many sought Jesus that they might only touch a part of his garment. Those that did were instantly healed.

Never in the history of the world had such an event taken place. Just how much the people really understood who this was is unknown. They believed Jesus was a great prophet, but the knowledge that this was actually God, Who had come to this earth in human form, they did not understand.

They only understood that there was something special like had never been before. There was instant healing for the sick, and the words of God were being spoken to them. Only touching the edge of His garment meant instant healing.

Today, by God's mercy, all this wonderful

CHRONOLOGICALLY Mt 14:36 goes to Mk 6:53.

Mk 6:53 goes to Mk 6:56.

Mk 6:56 goes to Jn 6:22.

Jn 6:22 goes to Jn 6:71.

Jn 6:71 goes to Mt 15:1.

If you have now read all the commentary for the previous chapter, consider returning to the beginning of the chapter and read just the verses again. Each verse should now have much more meaning to you.



knowledge is available to people through the Bible. Why then do many Bibles collect dust? And why is it then that some do not even have a Bible?

And why is it that people are now so hard toward God's Word, that one can go to 500 houses and not find even one person that will welcome them? In fact, people are now so hard toward the Gospel that the police may be called many times on those that bring to them the love of Christ.

As it has been said in **Mt 14:36**, And (they) besought him (or began to entreat Him) that they might only touch the hem (or fringe) of his garment (or cloak): and as many as touched (or all who touched) (it) (or him) were made perfectly whole (or were cured) (or healed).

[Click here for Mt. Chapter 15](#)

