

The Gospel of Matthew

The gospel of the Messiah, His Kingdom and His People

LESSON 12

MATTHEW 14:1 – 15:28

Matthew recounted Jesus' parables of the kingdom in Chapter 13. Through that teaching, Jesus emphasized His fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, His "sifting like wheat" the faithful and unfaithful in Israel, the special role of His disciples, and the need for those who would follow God to know and do His will. Matthew then relates a series of events, including his account of Jesus' "feeding of the five thousand", that continue to emphasize Jesus' role as the Messiah.

I. Chapter 14

A. Verses 1-12.

Matthew recounts Herod's execution of John.

Question 1: What can we know about the condition of society during the time of Jesus from Matthew's description of John's confrontations with Herod?

Question 2: What did Herod recognize about Jesus' works?

B. Verses 13-21

Jesus withdraws from the area of Nazareth to Bethsaida after learning of John's execution, but the crowds of people follow him.

Question 3: What is Jesus' reaction to the crowds? v. 14.

Question 4: Does Jesus' statement to the disciples in v. 16 and their distributing the food in v. 19 help show the special role they were to have on behalf of Jesus?

C. Verses 22-36

Question 5: What had Peter and the other disciples seemingly forgotten from an earlier miracle by Jesus? 8:25-26.

Question 6: Matthew relates the disciples response to Jesus miracle by saying "Truly you are the son of God." What does this event about the nature of the Son of God?

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III. Chapter 15: 1 - 28

A. Verses 1-9

While Jesus teaches in Gennesaret, scribes and Pharisees come up from Jerusalem to confront Jesus again about the practices he permits by His disciples.

Question 7: What criticism does Jesus make of the Pharisees' teaching? vv. 3-7.

B. Verses 10-20

Jesus turns to teach the people after his confrontation with the Pharisees.

Question 8: How does Jesus respond to his confrontation with the Pharisees? v. 10-11.

Question 9: What prior teaching does Jesus emphasize in vv. 13-20? 5:20; 7:21-23.

C. Verses 21-28

Jesus leaves the Galilean area around Gennesaret and goes to the region of Tyre and Sidon, which Jesus earlier referred to in condemning the unrepentant cities of Galilee. Ch. 11:20-24.

Question 10: What aspect of His mission does Jesus repeat to His disciples? 10:5-6. *See also* Romans 15:8-12.

Question 11: What challenge does Jesus make to the Canaanite woman? v. 26. *See* 7:6. What aspect of Jesus' kingdom do we again see emphasized in this incident? 8:10-12; 12:46-50.