

***STUDYING THE BOOK OF MATTHEW***  
***IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS***

**Lesson 59 - John the Baptist Beheaded - Matthew 14:1-12**

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

*Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.*

MT 14:1 At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the reports about Jesus, [2] and he said to his attendants, "This is John the Baptist; he has risen from the dead! That is why miraculous powers are at work in him."

MT 14:3 Now Herod had arrested John and bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, [4] for John had been saying to him: "It is not lawful for you to have her." [5] Herod wanted to kill John, but he was afraid of the people, because they considered him a prophet.

MT 14:6 On Herod's birthday the daughter of Herodias danced for them and pleased Herod so much [7] that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. [8] Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist." [9] The king was distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he ordered that her request be granted [10] and had John beheaded in the prison. [11] His head was brought in on a platter and given to the girl, who carried it to her mother. [12] John's disciples came and took his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**Lesson 59 - John the Baptist Beheaded - Matthew 14:1-12**

- 698. What powerful political figure heard about all the things Christ was doing? (14:1)
- 699. What explanation did Herod have for the miracles Christ was doing? (14:2)
- 700. What had Herod done to John the Baptist? (14:3)
- 701. Why did Herod put John in prison? (14:3)
- 702. For what reason had John been rebuking Herod? (14:4)
- 703. How did Herod react to John's reprimand? (14:5)
- 704. Why didn't Herod act on his wishes? (14:5)
- 705. What happened on Herod's birthday? (14:6-7)

706. What promise did Herod make to the daughter of Herodias? (14:7)
707. Who was behind the plot to murder John? (14:8)
708. How did Herod feel when he realized he'd been tricked? (14:9)
709. Why did Herod carry out the execution of John? (14:9)
710. What happened in the aftermath of John's execution? (14:12)

### **Lesson 60 - Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand - Matthew 14:13-21**

MT 14:13 When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. [14] When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

MT 14:15 As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."

MT 14:16 Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

MT 14:17 "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.

MT 14:18 "Bring them here to me," he said. [19] And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. [20] They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. [21] The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

### **Lesson 60 - Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand - Matthew 14:13-21**

711. How did Jesus respond to the death of John the Baptist? (14:13)
712. Who came looking for Jesus? Why? (14:13)
713. Who met Jesus at the shore? (14:14)
714. What did Jesus do for the people that came to see Him? (14:14)
715. What happened when it started getting dark? (14:15)

716. What did the disciples want Jesus to tell the crowds? Why? (14:15)
717. How did Jesus respond to the disciples' suggestion? (14:16)
718. What did Jesus tell the disciples to do for the crowds? (14:16)
719. How did the disciples react to Jesus' unusual request? (14:17)
720. After having the crowd sit on the grass, what did Jesus do? (14:19)
721. How much food did Jesus begin with? (14:19)
722. How was the food distributed? (14:19)
723. How much food was available to each person? (14:20)
724. How much food was left over? (14:20)
725. How large a crowd was fed? (14:21)
726. What does this passage tell you about God?

### **Lesson 61 - Jesus Walks on the Water - Matthew 14:22-36**

MT 14:22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. [23] After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, [24] but the boat was already a considerable distance\* from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

MT 14:25 During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. [26] When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

MT 14:27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

MT 14:28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

MT 14:29 "Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. [30] But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

MT 14:31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

MT 14:32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. [33] Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

MT 14:34 When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret. [35] And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to him [36] and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

### **Lesson 61 - Jesus Walks on the Water - Matthew 14:22-36**

727. After feeding the crowd of five thousand people, what instructions did Jesus give His disciples? (14:22)
728. Where did Jesus go after He dismissed the crowd? Why? (14:23)
729. What did Jesus do on the mountain? (14:23)
730. Where were the disciples when evening came? (14:24)
731. What conditions were the disciples encountering? (14:24)
732. What miracle did Christ perform? (14:25)
733. How did the disciples react to what they saw? (14:26)
734. How did Jesus try to calm the disciples' fears? (14:27)
735. What did Peter ask Jesus to do? (14:28)
736. How did Jesus respond to Peter's request? (14:29)
737. What happened to Peter as he made his way toward Jesus? (14:29-30)
738. What did Jesus do and say when Peter got in trouble? (14:31)
739. What was the consensus reaction to this amazing sequence of events? (14:33)
740. What happened when Jesus and His disciples arrived at their destination? (14:35-36)
741. What does this passage teach you to do?

