

Verse by Verse

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[0 : 00] Let's get to Matthew then, Matthew chapter 14 this morning. The Gospel according to Matthew chapter 14, making our way through this book verse by verse.

And we're about halfway there, chapter wise. We've already seen a bit of a transition from the presentation of the kingdom of heaven.

In the beginning, in the onset of this book, in the onset of Christ's ministry, John the Baptist, Christ himself, his disciples that he commissioned to go out across all of the land, preaching, repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

And he spoke very plainly about that kingdom in 5, 6, and 7. And then, as we saw in the last chapter, in chapter 13, it took on what they call the mystery form, where he's speaking of them in parables.

And things are hidden now from their eyes for those that don't have ears to hear. But here in chapter 14, some things are going to continue, some miraculous things, some amazing things, some of which have not been repeated.

[1 : 17] And let's start here in verse number, I think we stopped around 14. I'll just back up just a touch. In verse number 13, when Jesus heard of it, speaking of the assassination, the murder of John the Baptist, rather.

When Jesus heard of it, he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart. So it seems as though when he hears about what's going on with the powers that be, and the prophet John, and his death, his beheading, that he gets out of there.

And he finds a safer place, or a quieter place, a desert place it's called. Deserted, that is. And when the people had heard thereof, they followed him on foot out of the cities.

And Jesus went forth and saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick. So he's not taking days off, even though he is prepared to.

He is sliding away. He's always got a green light to fulfill the ministry, to fulfill his calling. He never turns people away.

[2 : 25] And it's because he's moved with compassion. And we studied, I believe, on a Wednesday night, how the character of Christ, how he's a compassionate man. And compassion is not something that's just inside of you.

It's something that's displayed outwardly. And there it is. He's moved with compassion toward them, and shows that he heals their sick. So verse 15, when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time has now passed.

Send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves victuals. Now, you may say, victuals? What's that word? I've never seen that before, or I don't know that word.

In the south, they say vittles. And so they're not too far off, a little slang term there. But you don't have to know the word. You just read the context. In the next verse, Jesus said unto them, They need not depart.

Give ye them to eat. It's obvious that the disciples were concerned that these folks don't have any food. And the Bible in Mark chapter 6, in the account here, it uses the word bread.

[3 : 26] That they don't have bread. Let them go buy themselves bread. In another chapter in Luke, I think it uses the word meat in the context. And so it's very plain and easy to understand your Bible.

Without changing words, just cross-reference it, and you'll get it quickly. And so time is passing here. It's to pass the evening meal. It's still light out, I would assume, but it's evening.

And they're concerned that these men don't have anything to eat, these people. So in verse 16, Jesus said unto them, They need not depart. They don't need to go to the city.

They don't need to go back to their homes to find food. He says to his disciples, Give ye them to eat. Now why would Christ say something like that to those men?

What do you think they felt when he said that directly to them? They don't need to go home. You feed them. What do you think they thought? What are you talking about? I mean, they give you a...

[4 : 23] You don't see it here. Look at Mark. You'll see it in Mark. You see their response. It's kind of an argument or a little argumentative in their tone, I believe, in Mark chapter 6.

Find Mark 6, and you'll hear how they respond to him. And it's in verse 36 where they call for Christ to send the multitude away.

Mark 6, 36. Send them away, that they may go into the country round about and into the villages and buy themselves bread, for they have nothing to eat. Verse 37.

He answered and said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they said unto him, Shall we go and buy 200 penny worth of bread and give them to eat? Like, they're taking a little tone with them, I think.

A little, when he tells them, You take care of this problem. Well, how are we going to do that? Are we going to buy them all this food? Where are we going to get this at? Is that going to be enough? Look at this multitude.

[5 : 28] The Bible tells us there's 5,000 men beside women and children. Have you ever seen a crowd that big? Maybe if you've been to a ball game of some nature, you've seen a crowd of 15,000 to 20,000 people, perhaps.

That's just a guess. But that's how many bodies, how many mouths they're seeing with their eyes in this desert place. And you can understand when Christ says, You feed them.

I mean, how are you going to take care of that? You've been to a baseball game before and the guys walk around hollering out, Hot dog, hot dog. Can you imagine that there's only 12 guys working the stands?

And he says, Go feed them. Where are they going to get the food from? I mean, that's a lot of people they're worried about. And so as a man, yeah, they don't get it. But there's something else going on here.

Look at John chapter 6. Here's another account of this. John chapter 6. This is one of the few things that shows up in all four Gospels. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all record this event.

[6 : 30] We call it the feeding of the 5,000. John chapter 6. Now here Jesus Christ singles out one of the disciples. And so I believe that the common speech among the 12 is, somebody says it out loud probably, Are we supposed to get 200 penny worth of bread?

And then when Christ speaks to Philip on the side, he just replies with the same thing everybody's been saying. In verse 5, When Jesus then lifted up his eyes and saw a great multitude come unto him, he saith unto Philip, When shall we buy bread that these may eat?

Now he's singling out a man who, he knows Philip. And notice verse 6. This he said to prove him, for himself knew what he would do.

Philip answered him, Two hundred penny worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. So, Philip replies with the stamped answer of the day that they've already discussed.

And it's not possible. I mean, even that much, it's not enough to feed this many people. What you're talking about here is an impossibility. He says this to Philip, and let me just point out something else.

[7 : 45] Look at John 14. And in John 14, two of his disciples have a problem. One of them is Thomas. And we know Thomas to be a doubter from later on in John, after the resurrection.

And he insists that he will not believe, unless he sees and touches the Lord Jesus Christ. So, we call him Doubting Thomas. And in John 14, Thomas is doubting. Earlier in this passage, Christ said in verse 4, Whither I go, ye know in the way ye know.

Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest. And how can we know the way? Right after you told me that, I do know. I don't know. And he argues with Christ.

And he says, I'm the way. Now, that's one person in the passage. The next one is Philip. And in verse number 7, If ye have known me, ye should have known my Father also. And from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you? And yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen the Father, or seen me, hath seen the Father.

[8 : 49] Now sayest thou then, show us the Father. So Philip has a similar issue that Thomas has, a little trust issue or faith issue. And they all do, to be honest, as we see in the scriptures.

But these two guys, perhaps more than others. And so in John 6, we see Christ calling Philip aside and saying, Hey, Philip, Hey, how are we going to take care of this?

How are we going to feed this many people? And he's doing it to prove him. He's doing it to test him. Now back in Matthew, you can keep your, I don't know if I told you to keep your place in Mark, but we're going to reference that again.

Maybe even John, just be ready. In Matthew, we read that Jesus said, They need not depart. In verse 16, Give ye them to eat.

Now we know that he was testing or proving Philip with his comments to see what he'd say. But what about the rest of them? What about the 12? This he said to prove Philip, Give ye them to eat.

[9 : 50] I'm thinking that Jesus Christ knows full well the situation, obviously. He sees the multitudes. He has compassion on the multitudes.

His disciples now have compassion, maybe you want to call it, or some form of that where they're like, These people are hungry. We are too. We've been here all day. You're healing their sick.

It's a great time, but send them away. And Christ says, You don't need to send them away. You take care of it. Now why do you think he said that? Just to prove them, you know, one-on-one, or whether, I think there's something more.

I think they could have done it. I think they could have fed them, but didn't know it. And there's a reason they didn't know it, because they lack faith. These men have already been commissioned and sent around and cast out devils.

I'll look at it, Matthew 10 quickly. I'll show you the list of things that he gave them power to do.

Matthew chapter 10. In verse number 1, when he called unto him his 12 disciples, he gave them power, power, that's something there, against unclean spirits to cast them out and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

[11 : 06] In verse number 8, he commands them to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, that's no small feat, cast out devils. So these men have already been commissioned and sent out with this kind of power.

And a couple chapters later, they have a situation in front of them, and they're not even tied in to what could be. They're just complete, it's a complete foreign thought to them that they, with their faith in Almighty God and their gift of this, these kingdom gifts that Christ would empower them with and has already, that they could do something about it.

He even puts them on the spot, he sees it, he's plugged into this fully. He's like, you don't need to send these people away. He knows what he can do with what we see, just five loaves and two small fishes.

So he's not thinking, oh, well, we've got to find some food chain supply to feed these people. He knows, I can just do this, just right here, right now.

But they don't seem to get this yet, what they've been called to do in this kingdom ministry. And he says, give ye them to eat. I don't have a doubt that they could have exercised faith.

[12 : 22] But that's their problem. That's their problem without a doubt is they don't, they think like a carnal man thinks. They try to reason things out without faith.

They think the first thought is, we've got to send them to the town where the food is. We've got to send them home where the food is. They're not thinking. And I understand it.

I understand it full well. You do too, to think that way, to think, to react in the flesh, to react by sight.

But these men were being trained for something better than that.

They were being trained to trust God, to walk by faith. And there'd be, Christ said, how many times did Christ say, oh ye of little faith? How many times did he say that to these men?

How many, when they were in the ship and they were about to go down and he said, wherefore didst thou doubt? How is it that ye have no faith? With the storm.

[13 : 16] And he wakes up and he rebukes them before he rebukes, or I guess he rebuked the wind first, then he rebuked them and said, how is it that ye have no faith? How is it that you couldn't just take care of this yourselves?

I don't doubt that's what he's saying to them. But they're still, they're just stuck in that carnal mindset, in the carnal man, not understanding what they had and what God is calling them to do.

Now don't get your mind twisted and try to apply it. This is where the fools today take all this stuff and try to apply it to the body of Christ today and say, if you just had the faith of a grain of mustard seed, you'd move mountains.

Say to that mountain, be thou removed and cast into the sea. That was never promised to you. And you were never given this kind of power and authority, but these twelve disciples were for a purpose, for a kingdom that they were preaching and proclaiming to Israel.

Alright, so let's stay back in the passage. Verse number 16, Christ tells them to give ye them to eat. And in verse number 17, they say unto him, we have here but five loaves and two fishes.

[14:25] And he said, bring them hither to me. How about that? He's ready to go with that. In verse 19, he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass and took the five loaves and two fishes and looking up to heaven, he blessed and break and gave the loaves to his disciples and the disciples to the multitude and they did all eat and were filled.

And they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full. And they that had eaten were about five thousand men beside women and children. This is almost too much to comprehend.

I don't know, I grew up in this stuff as a kid, so I heard this from a little child. But do you remember the first time, if some of you may be saved later or a little further on down the road, do you remember the first time reading through your Bible or hearing this and thinking, wow, and thinking, that's the kind of power this man has, the Lord Jesus Christ?

Do you remember coming across this passage? Do you remember hearing of his miracles and just being just dumbfounded? Almost maybe to the point of, I don't know if this is really, this sounds too fantasy here that somebody could do this.

Well, this is the Lord Jesus Christ and there's nothing that restrains him. They did all eat and were filled.

[15:49] And Jesus Christ can fill them all. He can take anybody that comes to him and fill them. He can give you what you need. And I can't go past this moment without talking about this Holy Bible, the bread of life, the bread sent down from heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ, offers you plenty to eat.

I'm thankful that just yesterday I finished reading through my Bible again. And it's just, it's something I just, I don't know, I love it. I just mark it down in my Bible, the date, and turn my tassel back to Genesis.

I call that graduating. I turn my tassel. And that's just the thing that I like to do. I like to do it more often. And every time I do, I just think, I see the dates and I think, man, I'd like to have more of those down here, more than I do.

And I'm excited that I can read through this Holy Bible and each time I go through it, there's more in there and there's new nuggets of material and truth, things that I've forgotten, things that I've passed over and the Lord just has His ways of just pointing things out and feeding and feeding.

I was worried, I remember a long time ago, I remember just getting into the work of the ministry and getting into a place where I had to preach on a regular time and different things and I just felt like, how am I going to get messages to do this kind of stuff?

[17:14] How am I going to come up with it? And I remember talking to my pastor one time, this was years ago, and I just said, how do you do it? And he described kind of some things that he had, works for him and it just seemed too foreign to me to even do that and so I just thought, man, that didn't help.

But how am I going to do it? And as I got into it more and more, I remember one guy saying, don't sweat it, brother, the Lord will feed you, the Lord will feed you. And I thought, I hope so.

But He's true, it's true. He does. He feeds. As long as you've got your mouth open and are asking for it and are looking for it, you get in that Bible, you'll get fed. So they did all eat and were filled.

5,000 men, it said, in verse 21, beside women and children. There's no way that we can truly grasp this number or at least know for certain how many were there, but it's a great multitude, the scripture says.

They took up of the fragments that remained in verse 20, 12 baskets full. Now the number 12 is significant in the scriptures.

[18:21] It's always, not always, but it's very strongly connected to the nation of Israel and no exception here. It's no surprise to see that number 12 pop up again.

And prophetically speaking, God is going to, in the future, feed His people, Israel in a desert place. And Jesus Christ in this miracle, which again is mentioned four times in each of these Gospels here, is showing Himself to be the Messiah.

And I'll show you this in, look at, well you know what, let's go somewhere else first. Let's go to Revelation. Revelation 12. In the future, God's people during the tribulation are going to be sustained and taken care of in a place where they don't have food.

And they're not even able to buy or sell. In Revelation 12, take a look at verses 5 and 6.

It says, She brought forth a man-child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron and her child was caught up unto God to His throne. And the woman fled into the wilderness where she hath a place prepared of God that they should feed her.

[19 : 44] Feed her there 1,200 and three score days. There is three and a half years that the woman is being fed by God.

Look over in verse 14. And to the woman we're given two wings of a great eagle that she might fly into the wilderness into her place where she is nourished for a time one year and times two years and half a time from the face of the serpent.

That's three and a half years being taken care of nourished in the wilderness. And so come back to John chapter 6. Now that's that's taken place in the future there that we're noticing in Revelation. and John 6 when Christ feeds these 5,000 the people have a response to this. John chapter 6 and come down to verse 14.

John 6, 14 Then those men when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did said this is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world. 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.

[21 : 06] So these people are catching on when they see this miracle. This isn't the first miracle he's done or accomplished by a means. But when this one takes place this feeding of them in a desert place there's something so strongly connected to the scripture that they perceive it but really that's just a foreshadowing of the future of the real fulfillment of prophecy.

Let's look at this too. I've mentioned this too many times not to look at it. Psalm 78 If you're here every service you've heard this several times.

This came up in Sunday school more than once. It's come up on Wednesday night how the history of the nation of Israel is a parable and it's going to be played out again in the future and what you read in the scripture is not a perfectly detailed line by line everything that's ever happened with that nation but what God has placed in the book is placed for a purpose and in this case with Israel there's things that are going to happen again.

It's a picture showing them the future. In chapter 78 and it's in verse 2 where he says I open my mouth in a parable and what he opens his mouth about is the history of Israel and as it comes through to verse 23 it says though he had commanded the clouds from above and opened the doors of heaven and had rained down manna upon them to eat and had given them the corn of heaven man did eat angels food he sent them meat to the fool and that was out there in the wilderness verse number 15 he claimed the rocks in the wilderness and gave them drink out of the great depths out there in the wilderness verse number 17 they sinned yet more against him by provoking the most high in the wilderness saying in verse 19 they speak against God can God furnish a table in the wilderness and that's where God's going to send them back into the wilderness in the future and he's going to feed them and so what Christ is doing is just it's fulfilling elements of in this in his ministry setting the stage for them to receive or to reject him and as they reject him just gets pushed aside postponed and there's more to come so this is Christ's fulfilling prophecy that's going to be fulfilled again and this is an amazing book when you get down to it so back in Matthew 14 they that had eaten verse 21 were about 5,000 men beside women and children verse 22 in straightway

Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship and to go before him unto the other side while he sent the multitudes away now this is an interesting thing to consider I don't often try to read the church age into this but here's a case where it feels like you can a little bit read into in picture what takes place he sends he sends him into a ship and this is not necessarily scriptural but it's it's kind of popular in certain songs to call the church the old ship of Zion you've heard some of those songs and the type or the picture I shouldn't call it a type but rather the idea being that the church is a ship that's sailing toward heaven and sailing through some rough waters and seeking to get there and calling others to get on board and throwing out the lifeboat to get people on or the life preserver or

whatever to draw people into the ship and so that's just something that's been adopted maybe from the scriptures to a degree but in verse 23 it says when he had sent the multitudes away he went up into a mountain apart to pray and when the evening was come he was there alone so Christ departs while the others his believers are in that ship toiling and he ascends up into a mountain apart to pray the Bible says he's making intercession for us and so it's an interesting thought to make that connection in verse 24 when the ship was now in the midst of the sea tossed with waves for the wind was contrary and in the fourth watch of the night just before morning just before the sun would come up in the fourth watch of the night

[25 : 36] Jesus went unto them and there's a in type or at least to follow that figure it's a rapture before the second coming of Christ before the sun arises and so you can kind of read that in there it's something neat to consider I wouldn't necessarily say this is a doctrinal truth but it's worth pointing out a little picture there of the the church in the ship and so in the fourth watch he shows up after spending hours in prayer hours hours hours in prayer that's quite a time from when they left to when he showed up the fourth watch of the night these are three hour segments and he's into the fourth and they're troubled in verse 26 when the disciples saw him walking in the sea they're troubled saying it is a spirit and they cried out for fear they cried out for fear not because of the storm of verse 24 where they're being tossed with waves because the wind's just pushing them blowing that water around and blowing their boat around that's not what they're afraid of in Mark it says that they were toiling in rowing it's a dark night it's a windy night on the water if you could put yourself in that boat and in that situation it's you're tense

I mean you're you're definitely on edge and then this figure is walking they think they see something they do see something walking on top of the water across I wonder if their first thought are we near land where are we at what's happening did the wind push us off course is that they see this figure and they suppose and they say it's a spirit and they cried out for fear these are grown men these are not little children they're not little girls that are scared of monsters in the closet or under the bed these are grown men that have sailed and been on boats and on that water that very water most of their lives some of them and they're out there yet again and now they're crying out for fear maybe it was just Matthew that cried out for fear the publican the tax collector maybe he was a little softy maybe it wasn't Peter and the others but nevertheless in verse 27 but straightway Jesus spake unto them saying be of good cheer it is I be not afraid and Peter answered him and said Lord if it be thou notice there's it seems like there's still a little bit of doubt in Peter's voice if it be thou if it's really you you're talking to me you spoke I see you you're speaking to me but if it be thou maybe he's still doubting what he saw he says bid me come unto thee on the water so whether Peter does or doesn't still have doubts about this this image this being that he's seeing that's speaking to him who it is he doesn't have any doubt in the in Jesus Christ himself if it's Christ if it's you then look what in the world how did that come out of Peter's mouth bid me come unto thee on the water he obviously has no problem he has complete confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ if it's him and if it's really you then then let's do something that's never been done before let's let's call me out of the boat he says and in verse verse 29 and he said come and you notice that Jesus without hesitation calls Peter to come out of the boat now this this doesn't make sense this is just really if you can see this and picture this and what is going on and the wind contrary and the waves blowing in the boat and the men afraid and it's dark and this interaction with apparently Jesus Christ if you're in the boat and their tensions are high and they're afraid and for for this man to say bid me to come unto thee and for him to get out of the boat and even to attempt such a thing it's just absurd you do realize it you're not numb to this story having heard it so many times you realize the absurdity of this moment that Peter it doesn't make any sense to step out of the boat that's the only safety he has do you not know that if your men go down with the ship they don't dive into the water and they hang on for dear life as long as possible and Peter steps out of the boat it doesn't make sense but when Jesus Christ says come Peter says that when he was come down out of the ship he walked on the water to go to Jesus first thing that's noticed is when somebody trusts Jesus Christ with their life Jesus Christ says come when somebody wants to get out of the boat and wants to get away from the norm and from the fear and wants to walk toward him and get with him he says come on come out here if you want to be out here with me come on out the water's fine he'll bring you out this is not something that should happen that a man should walk on water this is not something that should ever happen but it will happen and has happened when a man said to Jesus Christ in verse 28 bid me come unto thee on the water

Christ come on bid me what a thing for a man to say to God bid me to come unto thee it's when God hears somebody with that kind of heart that wants to be with him and wants to get out of the boat and wants to walk with him he's not going to turn them down somebody that wants to get away from their fears wants to come to him he won't turn you down if you've got a heart to do more if you've got a heart that says I'm not worried about how things are going to work out I just want to serve God I'm not going to worry and fret over the details I just want to do what God wants me to do I just want to go to him I want to be with him I don't have to be known by the world and walk on water but I just want to be with him God sees that inside of you and if that's in you say bid me don't just step out of the boat some people tell you to take the step of faith don't you dare take a step of faith until he bids you you remember back in Matthew 4 this has been a while let's take a look at it this is a satanic temptation in Matthew chapter 4 one of the temptations of Jesus [32 : 33] Christ was to take a step of faith that's what the devil put on him verse number 5 then the devil taketh him up into the holy city and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple and saith unto him if thou be the son of God cast thyself down for it is written he shall give his angels charge concerning thee and in their hands they shall bear thee up lest at any time thou shalt dash thy foot upon a stone Jesus saith unto him it is written thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God devil tempting him saying if you're him you just take that step off of here and nothing's going to happen God's going to take care of you if you'll take a step of faith God will come in and fix it he'll help you you won't you won't even hurt yourself in the least the devil tempting a man that's the temptation of the devil it's something you've heard preachers say just take a step of faith bless God you need to trust God take a step of faith well here's your proof text you you say bid me first you ask God to bid you to go you ask

God to tell you what to do when he says come on then you can trust him then you can step out by faith that's the way it goes in verse 29 he said come and when Peter was come down out of the ship looks like he might have had to walk I mean it must have been a bigger boat than I'm picturing if he had to come down out of the ship like it was a process not just hop over the edge and off you go land on solid water maybe comes down is there a ladder on the side is there rungs that he's holding on to does he put his foot out to feel the water I don't know what this guy did there but he says when he was come down out of the ship he walked on the water to go to Jesus now we know how this happens how this plays out here we have to stop here but we know Peter goes down Peter doesn't last very long in the his lack of faith and his fear and getting his eyes off

Christ and all that's true but the last time I checked and I haven't really looked over this too hard the last time I checked there's only two men that have ever walked on the surface of water one of them being God in the flesh the other one being Peter Peter has something that has gone down in history as being that he's done something I'll never do in this body walking on water I love the fact that Peter calls out to Christ if it be thou bid me come unto thee on the water it was Peter's idea to do this and what a blessing to see that Christ said well come on then it's fine with me come on out here no problem and I don't know if it was Peter being upheld by the word of his power or if it was Peter exercising faith that he was supposed to have earlier when the thousands of people were around and they didn't have any food I don't know I mean Peter had I think Peter could have walked on that water and I think all 12 of them could have got out of that boat and walked on that water and it afraid but let's just stop with that thought and remember what a thing for a man to walk on water can't take that one away from him so we'll stop there and come back in 10 minutes and have the next hour