

Jesus: No Spin

Matthew Chapter Fourteen: Carpenter's Son or God's Son?

personal / group study for use with the message of January 10th and 11th, 2009

"Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid" Matthew 14:27.

Who is this Man? Who do people say He is? The people in His home town know His family. Herod thinks He is John the Baptist raised from the dead. The crowds see Jesus as the popular new teacher and miracle worker; He heals the sick and gives bread to the hungry. Who do you say Jesus is?

Introduction.

Jesus would have been deeply saddened by John's death. But even in His grief He continues to minister. His ministry was covered in prayer. There was never a time that He wasn't in contact with the Father. There are five different perceptions of Jesus from Matthew 13:53 through Matthew 14:36. Read through this passage several times watching for who people thought Jesus was.

Read.

Matthew 13:53-Matthew 14:36

53When Jesus had finished these parables, he moved on from there. 54Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. "Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?" they asked. 55 "Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? 56Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" 57And they took offense at him.

But Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown and in his own house is a prophet without honor."

58And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

Matthew 14:1At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the reports about Jesus, 2and 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."

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

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

13When 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. 14When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

15As 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."

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

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

18 "Bring them here to me," he said. 19And 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. 20They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. 21The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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

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

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

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

29"Come," he said.

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

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

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

34When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret. 35And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to him 36and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed. **All scripture taken from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted.*

Questions.

"During the days of Jesus' life on earth, He offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the One who could save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverent submission. Although He was a son, He learned obedience from what He suffered and, once made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek" Hebrews 5:7-10 Also see Isaiah 50:5-6 and Hebrews 1:2.

ThinkAboutIt...

1. Have you experienced rejection in your life? How did you get through it?
2. How does Jesus handle rejection? What can you learn from Him?

ReflectOnIt...

3. In the closing verses of Chapter 13 who do the people in Jesus' hometown say He is?
4. In the opening verse of Chapter 14 who does Herod say Jesus is?
5. Who do the crowds perceive Jesus to be? Why do they show up to see Him? (14:13-21)
6. When Jesus finished caring for the crowd, He sent His disciples back across the lake and went off to pray. Why would Jesus need to pray?
7. Who do the disciples think Jesus was when they saw Him walking on the lake? Who does Peter think Jesus is when he steps out of the boat?
8. Who is Jesus?

RespondToIt...

9. Peter was called by Jesus to come out of the boat. How do you know whether or not you are being called by God to do something?
10. What is the cost of staying safe in the boat? What do you think God can do in and through your life if you trust Him and step out of the boat?
11. How is the career you are involved in God's "calling" for you?