

MATTHEW 14; August 3; Herod Beheads John the Baptist

ANALYSIS:

1. Why was John the Baptist put in prison by Herod? _____
2. When Jesus saw a great multitude, how did he respond toward them?

3. In the miracle of the loaves and fishes, how many loaves ___ and fishes ___ fed how many people _____ with how many baskets _____ being taken up after?
4. Where was Jesus while the disciples were out on the Sea of Galilee in the storm? _____
5. Peter at first walked on the water to go to Jesus; what happened so that he began to sink? _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

The Lord Jesus Christ in the miracle of the loaves and fishes made a filling meal for many thousands of people out of just one average lunch. And then they took up 12 baskets full of the leftovers. What an incredible miracle. Our Lord is able to make much out of little or even nothing (Heb 11:3). If you are weak, helpless, without strength or wisdom, go to him in prayer and ask him to help you. He is able to take your small loaves and fishes and multiply them many times over.

After a long day of travel, healing, and preaching, the Lord Jesus was no doubt weary and needing rest. But his day was not even close to being over. When the evening had come, he sent the multitudes and the disciples away and went up into a mountain to pray. And he prayed most of the night, until early morning. If Jesus needed to pray, being the sinless Son of God, how much more do we need to pray, being weak and sinful men and women that we are. May God help us to make prayer the priority in our lives that it was in the life of our Lord Jesus during his earthly ministry.

HELP:

1. Because John had told Herod that it was not lawful for him to have his brother Philip's wife (vv 3-4).
2. He was moved with compassion toward them and healed their sick (v 14).
3. Five loaves and two fishes fed 5,000 men besides women and children with 12 baskets being taken up (vv 17-21).
4. Jesus was alone praying in a mountain until the 4th watch of the night (3-6 a.m.) (vv 23-25).
5. Peter took his eyes off Jesus and focused in fear on the boisterous wind and waves around him (vv 29-30).