



*Go for God!*

## *The Gospel According To MATTHEW*

### Chapter 14

## **“THE WAR, PRAYER & WALK OF FAITH!”**

~ **LET’S DEEPEN OUR FAITH IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD (3 POINTS):**

> **FAITH POINT #1 – (v1-12) THE WAR OF FAITH!**

- *The life and times of Herod Antipas (4 BC- A.D. 39). Antipas, another of Herod the Great's sons, began as tetrarch over Galilee and Perea. He was the ruling Herod during Jesus' life and ministry. Herod Antipas was first married to the daughter of Aretas, an Arabian king of Petrae. But he became infatuated with Herodias, the wife of his half-brother, Philip I. The two eloped together, although both were married at the time. This scandalous affair was condemned severely by John the Baptist (Matt 14:4; Mark 6:17-18; Luke 3:19).*

- *The ministry of John the Baptist – John was the last prophet of the Old Testament.*

- *Let’s learn from John the Baptist’s life:*

(1) His **MISSION!** - Mark 1:4 - *John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.*

(2) His **MESSAGE!** - Mark 1:7-8 - *And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."*

(3) His **HUMILITY!** - John 3:30-31- *He must increase, but I must decrease.*

(4) His **COURAGE!** – Luke 3:7-14 (against the religious leaders (ref. Mt. 3:7), tax-collectors, soldiers)

(5) His **INTEGRITY!** – John 1:19-23 (Are you the Christ, Elijah, the Prophet – No! John the Baptist was the fulfillment of Isaiah, “*I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘make straight the ways of the Lord.’*”)

(6) Jesus commends John’s **OUTSTANDING LEGACY!** - Matthew 11:11-12 - *"Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."*

- *Persecution is predicted against Christians by Jesus in Matthew 10:22 - And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.*

*And in Matthew 24:9 - "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.*

> **FAITH POINT #2 – (v13-21) THE PRAYER OF FAITH!**

- *These five loaves and two fish probably fed a crowd of approximately eight to ten thousand people. It says 5000 men plus women and children.*

- *Verse 18 is your key, always bring what you have to JESUS IN PRAYER and he will multiply it, according to HIS WILL, GLORY, and GOOD PLEASURE!*

- More insight for our “PRAYER OF FAITH” is in verse 19 Jesus LOOKS UP TO HEAVEN and blesses the food. We must always look to God and thank Him for our food, all that we have, and believe by faith that God will bless!

- The prayer of faith is answered because:

(1) God has promised to answer our requests when we start helping the hungry and afflicted (Isa 58:9-10),

(2) when we believe that we will receive what we ask (Mark 11:22-24),

(3) when we forgive others (Mark 11:25-26),

(4) when we ask in Christ's name (John 14:13-14),

(5) when we abide in Christ and His words (John 15:7),

(6) when we pray in the Spirit (Eph 6:8),

(7) when we obey the Lord's commandments (1 John 3:22),

(8) when we ask according to His will (1 John 5:14-15).

- Until we have properly responded to God and His Word, He cannot entrust us with His powerful resources.

- Why are do some prayers go unanswered?

Several hindrances to answered prayer are mentioned in the Bible:

(1) *iniquity in the heart* (Ps 66:18),

(2) *refusal to hear God's law* (Prov 28:9),

(3) *an estranged heart* (Isa 29:13),

(4) *sinful separation from God* (Isa 59:2),

(5) *waywardness* (Jer 14:10-12),

(6) *offering unworthy sacrifices* (Mal 1:7-9),

(7) *praying to be seen of men* (Matt 6:5-6),

(8) *pride in fasting and tithing* (Luke 18:11-14),

(9) *lack of faith* (Heb 11:6),

(10) *and doubting or double mindedness* (James 4:3).

### > FAITH POINT #3 – (v22-36) OUR WALK OF FAITH!

- In this passage we find Jesus walking on water and He invites Peter to join Him. This is EPIC! God wants us to experience the incredible, the miraculous, the unfathomable, literally, and personally!

- Some people don't want to believe that Jesus walked on water, I personally don't have a problem with it; because I know who Jesus is, He's the SON OF GOD, GOD INCARNATE, His title is IMMANUEL, which is translated GOD WITH US! (Mt. 1:23)

In Colossians 1:16-17 - For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

- What if I told you 100 years ago that a man would walk on the moon, remember the words of Neil Armstrong, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." (Let's read.)

- Let's learn the process of **WALKING BY FAITH!**:

(1) (v23) Jesus **PRAYED!** Do you know that Jesus prayed for you and is interceding for you - John 17:9 - *"I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours."*

Romans 8:34 - *Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.*

(2) (v27) Jesus teaches us on how to **OVERCOME FEAR**, first, *"Be of good cheer!"* Second, mankind's greatest fear is the fear of death, but in Hebrews 2:14-16 we read - *Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

1 John 4:18-19 - *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.*

(3) (v28) Peter prayed and asked for the **MIRACULOUS!** Jesus said in Luke 11:9 - *"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you"*

(4) (v29) Always follow Jesus' **COMMANDS**, here he says, *"Come."*

Jesus said in Matthew 11:28-30 - *Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*

(5) (v29) Take that step of **FAITH**, like Peter - Hebrews 11:6 - *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

(6) (v30) **MAINTAIN FAITH!** Don't doubt the **WORD OF GOD!** – Romans 10:17 – *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

James 1:6-8 - *But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

(7) (v30) Here we find the greatest prayer in the entire Bible, **"LORD SAVE ME!"**

- This is absolute, complete, surrendered faith! We're all drowning in sin, *"for the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ!"* (Rom. 6:23)

- We are told in Rom 10:13 - *For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."*

(8) (v31) Here we have a life lesson from our Lord and Savior, Jesus said, *"Why did you doubt?"* If we trust Jesus for eternal life surely, we can trust him for life itself.

- Paul writes in Philippians 4:13 - *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

- Philippians 4:19 – *And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

- Romans 8:28 – *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

(9) Let us always **WORSHIP HIM**, *not ourselves, nor anyone, nor anything, AMEN!*

Worship in Greek is *proskuneo*, which is to adore, reverence, to kiss the hand. Let's always and forever maintain our confession, *"Truly you are the Son of God."*

- Again, Paul writes in Philippians 2:9-11 – *Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

(10) (v34-36) Let's tell the world about Jesus so that all will **"COME TO SALVATION IN JESUS CHRIST!"** Then all will be made **"PERFECTLY WELL!"**

- When we go to heaven, we will be PERFECTED, and GLORIFIED! - Philippians 3:20-21  
- *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*