

Matthew 14

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Matthew 14

Don't be afraid; Why wonder

Bible Question: What Is God's "Trinity"?

God is God, the Father is the Son, and the Holy Spirit is the Holy Spirit

The concept of the "Trinity," which symbolizes that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are three distinct individuals at the same time, does not have the phrase "Trinity" in the Bible

God the Father: Creator, Holy and Almighty, Knowing and Eternal

Son of God: The Messiah, the Lord of the Messiah, Emmanuel

The Holy Spirit of God: Advocate for guidance and assistant counselors

Each of the Trinity has a different job

The Father is the ultimate source of the universe: (I Corinthians 8:6; Revelation 4:11); The Father is divine revelation (Revelation 1:1); The Father is salvation (John 3:16-17); and Jesus' human behavior (John 5:17; 14: 10)。 Heavenly Father set in motion all of these things.

The Son is the agent of the Father through whom he accomplishes the work of creation and the maintenance of the universe (I Corinthians 8:6; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16-17); The Son is Holy (John 1:1,16:12-15; Matthew 11:27; Revelation 1:1); The Son is and Salvation (I Corinthians 5:19; Matthew 1:21; John 4:42). The Father does all this through the Son, who acts as His agent.

The Holy Spirit is the means by which God the Father does the work that the Holy Spirit is the creation and maintenance of the universe (Genesis 1:2; Job 26:13; Psalm 104:30); The Holy Spirit is divine revelation (John 16:12-15; Ephesians 3:5; II Peter 1:21); Salvation (John 3:6; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 1:2); The

Holy Spirit is the work of Jesus; Acts 10:38). Therefore, the Father did all these things by the power of the Holy Spirit.

1. God the Father

Most prayers are directed to God the Father. Jesus taught us to pray to the Father, to whom He prayed throughout His entire time on earth (John 16:23 and John 17:1-26). When we are saved, God also becomes our Father (John 1:12). We can ask anything before Him, and He will listen to us (Philippians 4:6).

2. The Son of Jesus

The most basic prayer in the hearts of people is "Save me!" As our Savior, Jesus heard this prayer and will always answer it. When those around us are saved, it is natural to praise Jesus for His work on the cross. Jesus took away our sins and spoke of us as righteous before God the Father (1 John 1:9). When we pray "in the name of Jesus," we are in His authority. Jesus is the true God and the real man. He came as a servant and took on human likeness (Philippians 2:7). Therefore, when we feel tenderness or we feel weak.

3. Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is a person, just like Jesus and the Father. He guides us, comforts us, and helps us remember the words of Jesus (John 14:26). The Holy Spirit also gives us the ability to experience love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22).

In Genesis 1:26, God speaks of God being in his image so that he can rule over all things on earth. God has the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as three distinct persons at the same time, and man should have three distinct persons, Genesis 6:3 : 'Since the Lord is of the flesh, my Spirit does not dwell in him for ever; But his life could go up to 120 years.

When we believe in God, the Spirit of God is with us, Ephesians 1:13: And when ye hear the message of truth, which is the gospel of your salvation, ye are included in Christ. When you believe the gospel, you are sealed in Him, the Holy Spirit of promise. After receiving the Holy Spirit, 2 Corinthians 3:18 speaks of "being transformed into the image of the Lord, and glory upon glory, as from the Spirit of the Lord."

The House of Herod was a Gentile family that relied on the power of the Roman Empire to rule Judea at the time. Herod had a relationship with John the Baptist, whom he had considered a prophet, but eventually he ordered the execution of John the Baptist, mistaking Jesus for the resurrection of John the Baptist from the dead. The Bible's account of these events not only emphasizes Jesus' place in Herod's heart, but also shows that Herod's attitude toward Jesus was full of persecution and rejection.

In the miracle of the five loaves and two fishes, Jesus heard the news and chose to retreat into the field alone. Both John the Baptist and Jesus came into the world to fulfill the Father's plan, not to live according to human desires. John the Baptist's mission was accomplished, paving the way for Jesus, who focused on teaching his disciples. Although it was late and the disciples had intended to disperse the crowd and solve the problem of food themselves, Jesus commanded them: "Do not let them go, but give them to eat!" This was to lead the disciples to rely on Him and experience His mercy and power. The disciples replied, "We have only five loaves of bread and two fish here." Jesus told them to bring food to Him and, with God's blessing, to feed five thousand people with this limited amount of food, and there

were still twelve baskets of fragments left. Not only was Jesus abundantly supplied, but it also showed the power of miracles, like the miracle of Elisha helping a widow turn one vial of oil into multiple vials.

Then Jesus' miracle of walking on the sea revealed His divine identity. When Jesus asked his disciples to get into the boat and leave to pray, the boat was shaken by the waves in the middle of the sea because of the bad wind. When Jesus walked on the sea at night, the disciples were frightened and thought they were ghosts and panicked. When Jesus told them, "I am not afraid," He revealed Himself as God. Peter's faith in Jesus led him to dare to go down to the sea and walk, but when he saw the strength of the wind and waves, his faith wavered and he began to sink. Then he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus stretched out his hand, took hold of him, and asked him why he doubted. When Jesus got into the boat, the wind stopped, showing that where Jesus was present, there was peace.

We pray

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thanks to the words of prayer given on this day, the Lord Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life", and the prayer lets us know that only through prayer can we truly know prayer and receive eternal life. Thanksgiving prayer prepares us for an everlasting home and gives the Holy Spirit to be with us as our comforter.

Lord, as we face difficulties and challenges in our lives, prayer helps us to keep our faith and not to be sorrowful, as Jesus said. May we rely on prayer, submit to the leading of prayer, and seek the will of prayer with all our hearts. May the Holy Spirit of prayer guide us at all times and give us wisdom and strength so that we can live a life that pleases us at every moment.

Prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Matthew 14

John the Baptist Beheaded

14 At that time Herod [Antipas], the tetrarch [who governed a portion of Palestine including Galilee and Perea], heard the reports about Jesus, ² and said to his attendants, "This is John the Baptist; he has been raised from the dead, and that is why the miraculous powers are at work in him."

³ For Herod had John arrested and bound him and put him in prison [at the fortress of Machaerus, east of the Jordan, to keep him away] because of ⁴ Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, ⁴ for John had said to him, "It is not lawful (morally right) for you to have her [living with you as your wife]." ⁵ Although Herod wished to have him put to death, he feared the people, for they regarded John as a prophet.

⁶ But when Herod's birthday came, [his niece Salome], the daughter of Herodias danced [immodestly] before them and pleased *and* fascinated Herod, ⁷ so much that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. ⁸ She, being coached by her mother [Herodias], said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist." ⁹ The king was distressed, but because of his oaths, and because of his dinner guests, he ordered it to be given her. ¹⁰ He sent and had John beheaded in the prison. ¹¹ His head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother [Herodias]. ¹² And John's disciples came and took away the body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus.

Five Thousand Fed

¹³ When Jesus heard *about John*, He left there privately in a boat and went to a secluded place. But when the crowds heard of this, they followed Him on foot from the cities. ¹⁴ When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt [profound] compassion for them and healed their sick.

¹⁵ When evening came, the disciples came to Him and said, “This is an isolated place and the hour is already late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶ But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go away; you give them *something* to eat!” ¹⁷ They replied, “We have nothing here except five loaves and two fish.” ¹⁸ He said, “Bring them here to Me.” ¹⁹ Then He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and He took the five loaves and the two fish and, looking up toward heaven, He blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples *gave them* to the people, ²⁰ and they all ate and were satisfied. They picked up twelve full baskets of the leftover broken pieces. ²¹ There were about 5,000 men who ate, besides women and children.

Jesus Walks on the Water

²² Immediately He directed the disciples to get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee], while He sent the crowds away. ²³ After He had dismissed the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. When it was evening, He was there alone. ²⁴ But the boat [by this time] was already a [b]long distance from land, tossed *and* battered by the waves; for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night (3:00-6:00 a.m.) Jesus came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately He spoke to them, saying, “Take courage, it is I! Do not be afraid!”

²⁸ Peter replied to Him, “Lord, if it is [really] You, command me to come to You on the water.” ²⁹ He said, “Come!” So Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw [the effects of] the wind, he was frightened, and he began to sink, and he cried out, “Lord, save me!” ³¹ Immediately Jesus extended His hand and caught him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you [c]doubt?” ³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ Then those in the boat worshiped Him [with awe-inspired reverence], saying, “Truly You are the Son of God!”

³⁴ When they had crossed over [the sea], they went ashore at Gennesaret. ³⁵ And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent *word* throughout all the surrounding district and brought to Him all who were sick; ³⁶ and they begged Him to let them merely touch the fringe of His robe; and all who touched it were perfectly restored.

Matthew 14 is a chapter in the Gospel of Matthew that contains several important events in the life and ministry of Jesus. It is a chapter that highlights His miracles, interactions with people, and the unfolding revelation of His identity. Let's break it down, explore key verses, and consider the theological thoughts and spiritual influence it offers.

Overview of Matthew 14

1. The Death of John the Baptist (Matthew 14:1-12)

The chapter opens with the tragic death of John the Baptist, who is executed by King Herod Antipas. Herod, influenced by his wife Herodias and her daughter Salome, orders John's

beheading after he condemns Herod's marriage to Herodias (his brother's wife). John's death signals the escalating opposition to God's messengers and serves as a stark contrast to Jesus' ministry.

2. **The Feeding of the 5,000 (Matthew 14:13-21)**

After hearing about John's death, Jesus withdraws to a solitary place. However, large crowds follow Him. Jesus, moved with compassion, heals the sick and then miraculously feeds 5,000 men (plus women and children) with five loaves of bread and two fish. This miracle demonstrates Jesus' divine power and His care for the physical needs of people.

3. **Jesus Walking on Water (Matthew 14:22-33)**

In another dramatic moment, Jesus walks on water to reach His disciples who are struggling in a boat on the Sea of Galilee. Peter steps out of the boat to walk toward Jesus but begins to sink when he doubts. Jesus saves him and rebukes him for his lack of faith. This event showcases both Jesus' power over nature and the call to trust in Him even in the most challenging circumstances.

4. **Healing the Sick in Gennesaret (Matthew 14:34-36)**

The chapter concludes with Jesus healing all who touch the fringe of His garment in Gennesaret. The people are eager to be healed, and Jesus responds with mercy and power, further confirming His identity as the Messiah.

Key Verses and Their Significance

1. **Matthew 14:16** – *“Jesus replied, ‘They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.’”*

This verse is significant because it highlights Jesus' compassion and His invitation to His disciples to participate in His work. Despite the disciples' initial response to send the crowd away, Jesus directs them to meet the people's needs. This speaks to the idea that Jesus calls His followers to be agents of His grace and provision.

2. **Matthew 14:27** – *“But Jesus immediately said to them: ‘Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.’”*

Jesus speaks directly to His disciples when they are frightened by His walking on water. His words, "It is I," echo the divine name of God in the Old Testament ("I AM"). This reveals Jesus' divinity and the importance of trusting in His presence, even in moments of fear.

3. **Matthew 14:31** – *“Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. ‘You of little faith,’ he said, ‘why did you doubt?’”*

Jesus' rebuke of Peter's doubt is a powerful reminder of the importance of faith in following Christ. Despite Peter's initial courage, his doubt causes him to sink, but Jesus is there to catch him and restore him. This shows Jesus' willingness to help even those who falter in their faith.

4. **Matthew 14:33** – *“Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God.’”*

After Jesus calms the storm and saves Peter, His disciples are filled with awe and worship. This moment marks a significant revelation of Jesus' divine identity. The disciples' declaration that He is the "Son of God" reflects their growing understanding of who Jesus is.

Theological Thoughts

1. **Jesus as Provider and Sustainer**

The feeding of the 5,000 is a clear demonstration of Jesus as the Provider. He takes what is little and makes it sufficient to meet the needs of the crowd. This foreshadows the way Jesus provides for the spiritual needs of humanity through His sacrifice and ongoing care.

2. **Jesus' Power Over Creation**

In both the walking on water and the calming of the storm, Jesus demonstrates His power over nature. These acts reinforce the truth of His divinity. In the Old Testament, only God has power over the sea (e.g., Psalm 107:29), and here Jesus displays the same authority.

3. **Faith and Doubt**

The interaction with Peter on the water speaks volumes about the nature of faith. Peter's initial faith allowed him to step out onto the water, but doubt caused him to sink. This serves as a metaphor for the Christian journey—faith enables us to take bold steps with Jesus, but doubt can hinder our progress. Nevertheless, Jesus is always there to help when we falter.

4. **The Cost of Following Christ**

The death of John the Baptist sets the stage for the cost of discipleship. John's martyrdom foreshadows the suffering that Jesus Himself will endure and the opposition that His followers will face. The chapter subtly underscores the idea that following Christ may involve hardship, but the rewards of faithfulness far outweigh the difficulties.

Spiritual Influence

1. **Encouragement in Times of Fear**

The words "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid" are incredibly comforting. In life, we all face moments of fear, whether in personal struggles, relationships, or challenges. Jesus' presence is the ultimate source of peace and assurance. These words remind us that we are never truly alone in our struggles.

2. **The Call to Faith**

Peter's experience on the water offers a powerful lesson on faith. While stepping out in faith may be daunting, Jesus invites us to trust Him. When we keep our eyes on Him, we can overcome the challenges in our lives. Even when we falter, Jesus is there to lift us up.

3. **Jesus' Compassion for Humanity**

The feeding of the 5,000, along with the healing of the sick, reveals Jesus' deep compassion for human suffering. This chapter calls us to reflect His love by serving others and meeting their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

4. **Worship of Jesus**

The disciples' worship of Jesus after the miracle on the water is a reminder of the ultimate purpose of our lives: to worship God. As we encounter His power and grace in our lives, our response should be one of awe and worship, acknowledging Jesus as the Son of God and the Savior of the world.

Matthew 14 is a rich chapter that teaches profound lessons about Jesus' identity, His power, and His care for humanity. It challenges us to live lives of faith, trust, and service, reflecting the love and compassion that Jesus exemplified in His earthly ministry.