

Introduction: Review:

- We have done an overview of Chapter 13. I explained much of commentary between parables and also kept Matthews message before us. Matthews purpose is to communicate to the reader that those who live in pursuit of the kingdom will find it and that it will grow extensively in their lives if they continue to look for and receive it. 'Kingdom' is key to understanding chap 13.
- Matthew 13 is another shift in his book. We call it a narrative passage like chapter 5-7 in the sermon on the mount. Matthew is playing back to us the teachings of Jesus. Chapters 11-12 were short videos of what was happening while Jesus and the disciples traveled. In both, Matthew is sending a message.
 - Chapters 11-12 the message was some people receive the kingdom some do not. There are grave consequences for not receiving the Kingdom.
 - Chapter 13 is a group of parables that defines what a persons life looks like who receives the kingdom of heaven.
 - We must remember that parables have one basic truth. That truth is not always obvious. It is hidden just enough to cause the person who wants to find it to be engaged with God. The hearer must participate if they are to gain kingdom understanding.
- As the discourse develops we shall find ample cause to believe that good soil can be found: the kingdom of heaven will grow like mustard seed and penetrate like leaven, and people will rejoice at discovering it as at finding a treasure or a pearl; "hidden things" are meant to be revealed (v. 35). France, R. T. (2007). *The Gospel of Matthew* (p. 509). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publication Co.
- 13:24-43 again presents the impact of the Kingdom of God upon those who hear the Word and receive its influence into their lives.
- Once again at the close of the narrative, Matthew leaves us with the conflict between the religious leaders of the day and Jesus.
 - The fruit of unbelief is limited production of Kingdom.
 - "Unbelief" (*apistia*) is used only of these people who reject Jesus; when disciples are rebuked for lack of faith we find the less absolute term *oligopistia* ("little faith) France, R. T. (2007). *The Gospel of Matthew* (p. 550). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publication Co.
- This set us up for what Matthew has to say about Jesus in chapter 14. Remember, we are reading the thoughts of a man who who is trying to communicate to his readers who Jesus is.

I. It Takes Faith to Follow God

- A. 14:1-12 serves as a transition passage from narrative back to action that foreshadowed what lies ahead. Remember "no prophet like John the baptist." He must become less.
- B. John the Baptist is beheaded. Sometimes following God will cost you! We leave the hostility of chapter 13 only to find the prophet '*like no other*' being beheaded.

1. Because John the Baptist is so prominent in this Gospel, we must assume that Matthew is intentionally making a point.
 2. This segment provides the necessary basis for the words of Jesus in Mt 17:10-13 comparing his own imminent fate with that of John.
 3. It therefore becomes a foreshadowing what will happen to Jesus.
 4. Even Jesus popular support was like John's until Judas betrayed Him.
 5. It took trickery to arrange for the death of John the Baptist.
- C. 13:57, "*A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own home town and among his own family.*" Again a foreshadowing of Jesus. It takes faith to follow God. This is set up by Jesus to prepare the disciples for what lies ahead for them as well.
- D. What is Matthew after from this point on through the rest of the chapter? This is what we will see: The miracles are to reveal who Jesus is (the purpose of Matthew's writing.) The miracles require faith. (Faith is our access to God) And the foundational truth to believe about this man Jesus...He is the Son of God! Matthews point his Jewish audience and us to this truth.

II. It Takes Faith to Feed 5,000

- A. Vs. 13 and the sequence of events that follow almost mark this as an end to Jesus' Galilee ministry. We now begin moving towards the cross.
- B. This miracle reflects 2 Kings 4:42 where Elisha feeds 100 people from 20 loaves. And also where Moses feeds a far greater number of people over and extended time.
1. This events presents Jesus as a new Moses. A leader of God's people from out of the wilderness into the light.
 2. It is another staggering presentation of Jesus' authority over nature and human conditions.
 3. Jesus, unlike in 4:3-4 is willing to create bread for others not for himself.
- C. Feeding 5,000
1. You give them something to eat. Call to find an answer, decide and act.
 2. Jesus took what they had 5 loaves 2 fish.
 3. Jesus looked to the Father.
 4. Jesus pushed them into a place of faith.
 5. Jesus modeled how to work a miracle. Look to the Father!
- D. Two truths Matthew presents:
1. The compassion of God on His people.
 2. The power of faith to work miracles when motivated by compassion.

III. It Takes Faith to Walk on Water

- A. "His walking on the water is thus presented, like the other nature miracles, as a practical response to a difficult situation rather than as a wonder performed for its own sake."
France, R. T. (2007). *The Gospel of Matthew* (p. 566). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publication Co.

- B. As in 2B2, Jesus authority is once again displayed. "It thus follows naturally that when Jesus, like God, walks on the water the storm yields to his authority." France, R. T. (2007). *The Gospel of Matthew* (pp. 566-567). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publication Co. Jesus authority is a constant theme that we continue to see in Matthew.
- C. The set up of this next miracle reflects the role of faith in the life of the disciple. It is an acting out of what the narrative of chapter 13 declared.
 - 1. Their fear is met by Jesus familiar voice!
 - 2. Their fear is met by Jesus invitation to trust!
- D. Matthew intends in this passage for us to see Peter as an example of valid faith that went wrong, re-ignited (walked back to boat) and made a solid declaration of Faith...You are the Son of God.

IV. It Takes Faith to Declare, "You are the Son of God!"

- A. Lets get some more insights from this statement.
 - 1. Why is it different from 16:18 When Peter states *you are the Christ the Son of the Living God*? This is in the context of a miracle. The other was in the context of many gods.
 - 2. Why is it different from 8:27 when after a nature miracle they ask, "*What kind of man is this?*" In Matthew's account the disciple's are beginning to "get it!"
- B. Another reason for the declaration could very well be the number of times that they have heard Jesus call God, Father.

Conclusion:

- As we look at the book of Matthew we have to remember that the Holy Spirit was working through a man to leave a message. This message was to be discovered by the disciples of Jesus centuries later that would enable them to believe.
- Again, the reoccurring themes are Jesus is the Son of God, Jesus has authority over all things, and it takes faith to access the things of the Spirit.
- And once again, Matthew leave us with confrontation of Pharisees...next week.