

BIBLE READING DAY 17, TUESDAY: MARCH 15

Death of John

Matthew 14:1-2; Mark 6:14-29; Luke 9:7-9

Now King Herod began to hear of Jesus, for his name had become widely known. Some were saying, "John the Baptizer has risen from the dead, and that is why such powers are working in him."

"It is Elijah," some said; and others were saying, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old."

But Herod, when he heard of him, said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised to life."

For Herod had sent and arrested John and bound him in prison because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife. For Herod had married her, and John told him, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."

Herodias hated John for this and wanted to kill him. But she could not do so; for Herod feared John, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man, and kept him in safe custody. Whenever he listened to John, he was deeply disturbed; yet he liked to hear him.

But an opportune time came when Herod, on his birthday, gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and the leading men of Galilee. For when Herodias's daughter came in and danced, she delighted Herod and his guests, and the king said to the girl, "Ask me anything you wish, and I will give it to you. Whatever you ask me," he vowed to her, "I will give you—even half my kingdom!"

Then she went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask?"

"The head of John the Baptizer!" she replied.

And she hurried back to the king and said, "I want you to give me the head of John the Baptizer on a platter, at once!"

The king was extremely sorry, but because of his vow and out of regard for his guests, he was unwilling to refuse her. And he immediately sent a guard and ordered him to bring John's head. And he went and beheaded him in the prison and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. And when John's disciples heard of it, they came and took away his body and laid it in a tomb.

Then his disciples came and took away the body and buried it and went and told Jesus.

Feeding the Five Thousand, Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-37; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15

When Jesus heard it, he departed to a deserted place by himself. Jesus went to the Sea of Galilee. And Jesus said to them, "Come away to some quiet place where you can be alone and rest a while." Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews was near.

For there were many people coming and going, and they had no leisure time even to eat. So, they left by boat for a quiet place where they could be alone. But many saw them going and recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them.

When Jesus came ashore, he found a great crowd waiting. And he was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. Now when the day was nearly gone, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and the hour is late. Send the people away, that they may go into the country and villages round about and buy themselves something to eat."

FUN BIBLE FACT: The feeding of the five thousand is the only miracle (other than of course the resurrection) that is included in all four gospels.

But this is not the only feeding of many with very little food. See also Day 19, and Jesus's asking the disciples what they learned from the two feedings on Day 20

He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" But this he said to test him, for he himself knew what he would do.

Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little."

One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?"

"Have the people sit down," said Jesus.

Now the ground there was covered with grass, so the men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he passed them out to all who were sitting there; and also the fish, as much as they wanted. And when they had eaten their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather up the pieces that are left over, that nothing may be wasted."

So, they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with pieces of the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Now when the people saw the miracle that Jesus performed, they began to say, "Without doubt, this is the prophet who is to come into the world!"

Jesus Walks On the Water, Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus told the disciples to get into the boat and go before him to the other side while he sent away the crowds. And when he had sent the people away, he went up into the hills by himself to pray; and when evening came, he was there alone. But the boat was now many furlongs from land, and tossed by the waves, for the wind was against them.

And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified and said, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.

Jesus immediately called to them and said, "Be of good courage; it is I, do not be afraid."

"Lord, if it is you," said Peter, "tell me to come to you on the water!"

"Come," said Jesus.

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

Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying, "O man of little faith! Why did you doubt?"

When they climbed into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those in the boat fell before him and worshipped him, saying, "Truly, you are the Son of God!"

When they had crossed over the sea, they came to land at Gennesaret. When the men of that place recognized him, they sent word to all the surrounding countryside and brought to him all who were sick and begged him that they might simply touch the fringe of his cloak. And as many as touched it were completely cured.

People who soar are those who refuse to sit back, sigh and wish things would change. They neither complain of their lot nor passively dream of some distant ship coming in. Rather, they visualize in their minds that they are not quitters; they will not allow life's circumstances to push them down and hold them under.

Chuck Swindoll

Approximate Timeline of Jesus's Public Ministry

EARLY LIFE	EARLY MINISTRY	1 st Feast of PASSOVER	SUMMER	1 st Feast of BOOTHS	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	FINAL PASSOVER
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DEVOTIONAL DAY 17 (TUESDAY MARCH 15)

Responding with Compassion and Generosity

Based on Mark 6:30–37; John 6:1–15

If the feeding of the 5,000 had been performed today, Christ probably would have been asked:

Is this gluten free?

Does the fish contain mercury?

Are there nuts in those loaves?

Is there a vegan option?

All joking aside, when I read this section of the gospel, I'm always reminded how good our God in all situations and during the darkest of times. I'm sure that there were many complainers at this miracle. But Christ is generous to all who come before Him.

Question:

Do you respond with compassion and generosity when you are going through difficult times? How do you respond?

It's amazing how Christ extends generosity and compassion to those who follow Him. The feeding of the 5,000 plus people (that was just the men) falls on the heels of Christ hearing the news that Herod had just brutally murdered His cousin and displayed him in a demeaning manner (bringing John's head in on a dinner platter).

Despite the inner grief, pain, turmoil that Christ was experiencing, He sought to meet the needs of others. Christ still seeks to meet our needs. Christ desires us to trust that He will meet our needs. Notice that even His disciples were pessimistic when it came to feeding the masses.

It is a matter of focus when facing a difficulty. We, like the disciples, tend to focus on the enormity of the problem and how we might fix it. Instead, we should be focused on The Solution, which is Christ (and I don't mean this in a cliché way). When we give all that we have (like the young boy did) and trust that God has a plan for our life, the Holy Spirit will guide us to the right solution.

Questions to consider:

- 1.) How has Christ/ God met your needs this year?
- 2.) Have you placed your trust in God's plan? What does this look like?

Prayer: Rather than simply giving you a prayer to read, spend some time praising God for how He has provided for you and your family during the good and the bad times. Pledge to trust in His plan for your life.

--By Matt Cornelius

WRITE DOWN YOUR THOUGHTS IN RESPONSE TO WHAT YOU HAVE READ:

WHAT DID GOD SAY TO ME?

PRAYER: WHAT DID I SAY TO GOD?

ACTS OF PRAYER: ADORATION, CONFESSION, THANKSGIVING, SUPPLICATION (How God Can Supply Needs)

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