

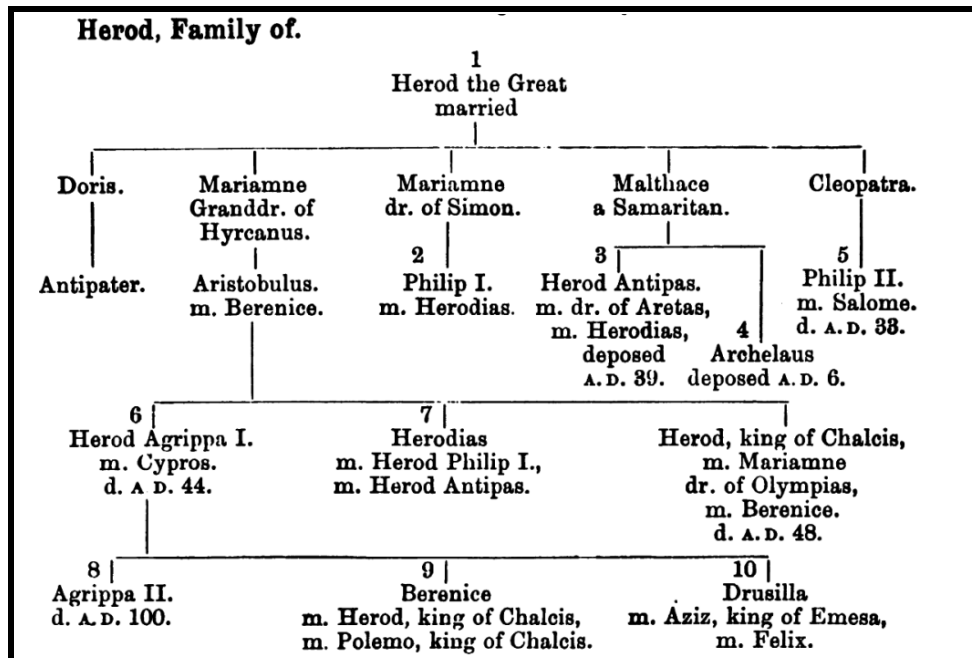
The Gospel of Matthew

Booklet 16 – Three Lessons

Lesson 43 - Matthew 14:1- 12

Lesson 44 - Matthew 14: 13-21

Lesson 45 - Matthew 14: 22-36



International ESL/Bible Lessons

Intermediate to Advanced Level

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Much of the material in these lessons come from *The Gospel of Matthew, Vol. I*, by William Barclay. Daily Study Bible Series. Other content comes from Bible Commentaries, Dictionaries and on-line sources. All pictures are from Google Images.

The Gospel Of Matthew

Material for this section is from William Barclay, *The Gospel of Matthew: The Daily Study Bible Series*. The Westminster Press. Philadelphia. 1975. Matthew's Gospel is carefully designed.

Section One includes The Genealogy of Jesus, The Birth Story, The John the Baptist Sequences, Baptism and Temptation of Jesus.

Section Two, from Chapters 5-7 is The Sermon on the Mount, or the Teachings of Jesus. These are gathered into a group from all the time of Jesus's ministry. These are the *words* of Jesus.

Section Three shows the actions or *doings* of Jesus.

Chapter 8 shows the Miracles of Jesus.

Chapter 9 shows the growing opposition to Jesus

Chapter 10 shows the choosing of Disciples and sending them out

Chapters 11 and 12 show Jesus working with the people and incurring the wrath of the Pharisees.

Chapter 12 indicates crucial decisions made by Jewish leaders: to bring about the death of Jesus.

Chapter 13 has Jesus teaching outside the Synagogue and in parables.

Chapter 14 describes the death of John the Baptist and the reaction of Jesus.

The Gospel Of Matthew

Lesson 43 - Matthew 14: 1-12 The Death of John

14 ¹⁻² At about this time, / Herod, the regional ruler, / heard what was being said about Jesus. / He said to his servants, / “This has to be John the Baptizer / come back from the dead. / That’s why he’s able to work miracles!”

³⁻⁵ Herod had arrested John, / put him in chains, / and sent him to prison / to placate Herodias, / his brother Philip’s wife. / John had provoked Herod / by naming his relationship with Herodias / “adultery.” / Herod wanted to kill him, / but he was afraid / because so many people revered John / as a prophet of God.

⁶⁻¹² But at his birthday celebration, / he got his chance. / Herodias’s daughter provided the entertainment, / dancing for the guests. / She swept Herod away. / In his drunken enthusiasm, / he promised her / on oath / anything she wanted. / Already coached by her mother, / she was ready: / “Give me, / served up on a platter, / the head of John the Baptizer.” /



That sobered the king up fast. / Unwilling to lose face with his guests, / he did it—ordered John’s head cut off / and presented to the girl on a platter. / She / in turn / gave it to her mother. / Later, / John’s disciples got the body, / gave it a reverent burial, / and reported to Jesus.

Vocabulary

1. To placate: Make somebody less angry. Soothe. Calm. Please.
2. To provoke: Make someone feel really angry. Cause. Incite.
3. To revere: Treat someone with admiring respect. Worship.
4. To coach someone: To instruct a person on what to do or say.

Idioms

1. To sweep someone away: To make someone instantly fall in love with you, or to be carried away emotionally.
2. To sober someone up fast: To stop being drunk and able to think rationally. To truly surprise someone into sobriety.
3. To lose face: To suffer a loss of dignity or embarrassment.

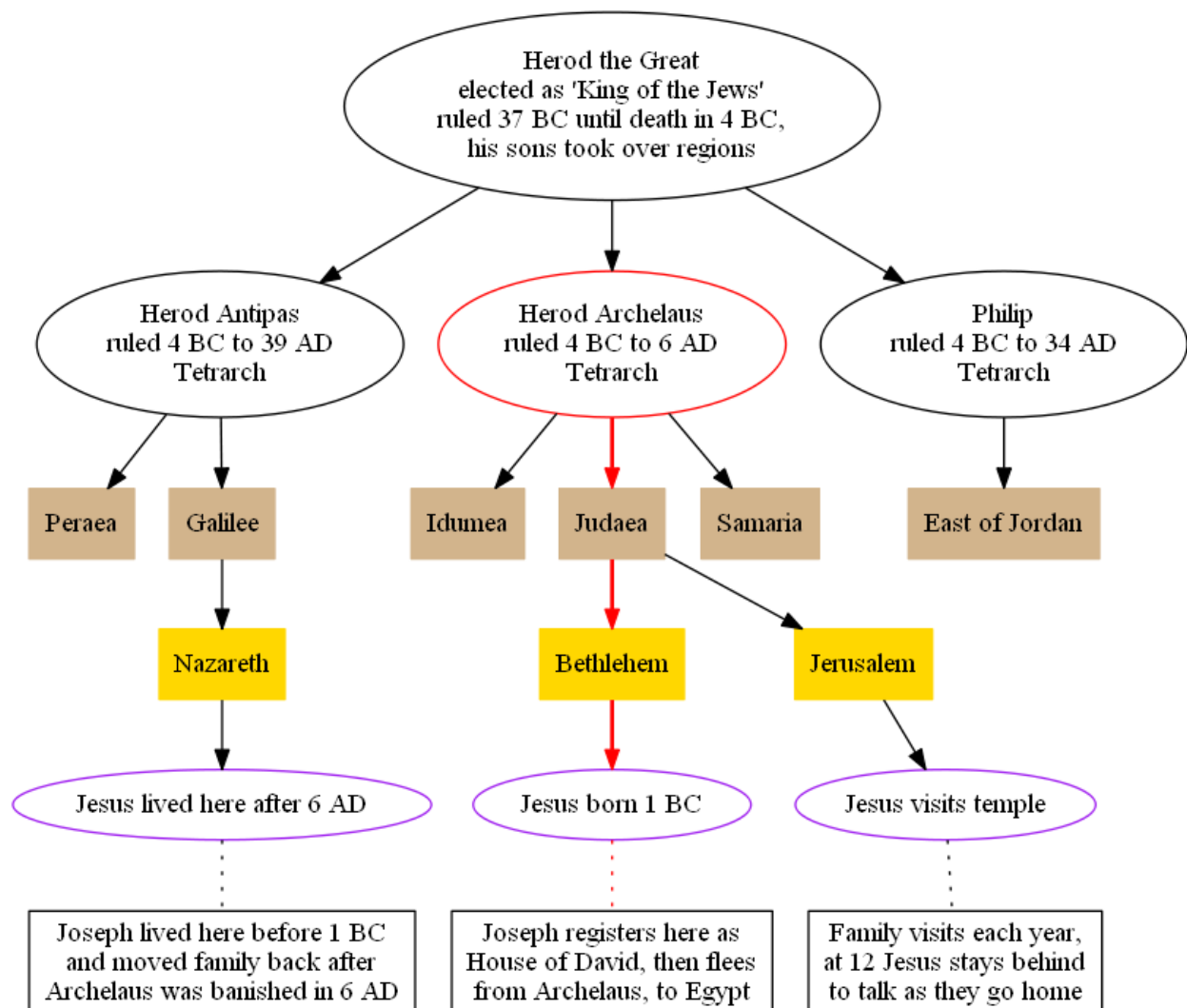
Questions

1. Why is it dangerous to call an absolute ruler's actions wrong?
2. If John were dead, why would Herod fear Jesus?
3. How can a drunken party cause people to make bad decisions?

Notes

1. John the Baptist was a major figure in the life of Jesus. We think he was a cousin of Jesus, born about six months before the birth of Jesus. Luke tells the story of the John's birth in Luke 1. It is interwoven with the birth of Jesus. Mark tells of the Baptism of Jesus in Mark 1, and Matthew tells of the imprisonment and death of John the Baptist. Clearly for all the writers, Jesus, and the disciples, John was loved and admired. He made a great impact on these people.

2. Herod the Great, King of Judea at the time of the birth of Christ died about 4 BC. Upon the death of Herod, the Roman Caesar split up the vast kingdom because not one of Herod's sons was trusted by the Roman Caesar, like Herod, so they would not be given his power. Judea went to Archelaus; Galilee went to Herod Antipas; and the region away to the northeast and beyond Jordan went to Philip. Other cities were Roman and called the Decapolis. Archelaus was a terrible king and began his reign with the slaughter of 3000 prominent Jewish citizens.

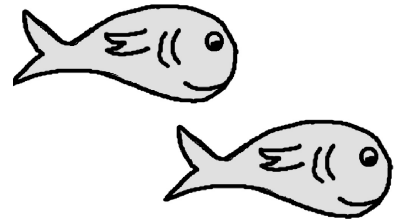


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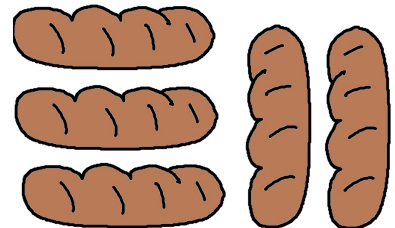
Lesson 44 - Matthew 14: 13-21 Supper for Five Thousand

¹³⁻¹⁴ When Jesus got the news, / he slipped away by boat / to an out-of-the-way place by himself. / But unsuccessfully— / someone saw him / and the word got around. / Soon / a lot of people from the nearby villages / walked around the lake / to where he was. / When he saw them coming, / he was overcome with pity / and healed their sick.

¹⁵ Toward evening / the disciples approached him. / “We’re out in the country / and it’s getting late. / Dismiss the people / so they can go to the villages / and get some supper.”



¹⁶ But Jesus said, / “There is no need to dismiss them. / You give them supper.”



¹⁷ “All we have are five loaves of bread / and two fish,” / they said.

¹⁸⁻²¹ Jesus said, / “Bring them here.” / Then he had the people sit on the grass. / He took the five loaves and two fish, / lifted his face to heaven in prayer, / blessed, / broke, / and gave the bread to the disciples. / The disciples / then / gave the food to the congregation. / They all ate their fill. / They gathered twelve baskets of leftovers. / About five thousand were fed.

Vocabulary

1. To slip away:
2. Word got around: People told each other. Passing around the news.
3. Overcome: Emotionally affected. Overwhelmed.
4. Leftovers: Food not eaten after a meal.

Questions

1. What news had Jesus received?
2. How do you think Jesus reacted to the news?
3. What do you think John the Baptist meant to Jesus? What had they shared?
4. Why would the people chase Jesus down?
5. What is a miracle?

Notes

1. The death of a loved one, a dear friend or relative, makes people want to grieve and find time to think through the life and death of that person.
2. Galilee was a place where it was very difficult to be alone. It was a small country, only 50 miles from north to south, and 25 miles from east to west. The historian Josephus tell us that in his time within that small area there were 204 towns and villages, none with a population of less than 15,000 people. On the other side of

Lake Galilee it was much quieter. Since the friends of Jesus were fisherfolk, it was easy to get a boat and go across.

3. Jesus crossed the lake to be alone for about three reasons:

- He was human and needed rest.
- He never recklessly ran into danger, and it was good to withdraw or face, too early, the same fate as John.
- He needed time with God before he met with more people.

4. Jesus did not get the time he needed. He healed and fed them before he sent them home and he finally could get some rest.

5. Why did Jesus need disciples?

Jesus gave to the disciples, and the disciples gave to the crowd. Even today, Jesus works through his disciples. If Jesus wants an International taught in the church, a disciple of his must do it. Jesus needs men to whom he can give, and those in turn give to others.

The Gospel Of Matthew

Lesson 45 - Matthew 14: 22-36 Walking on the Water

²²⁻²³ As soon as the meal was finished, / he insisted / that the disciples get in the boat / and go on ahead to the other side / while he dismissed the people. / With the crowd dispersed, / he climbed the mountain / so he could be by himself and pray. / He stayed there alone, / late into the night.

²⁴⁻²⁶ Meanwhile, / the boat was far out to sea / when the wind came up against them / and they were battered by the waves. / At about four o'clock in the morning, / Jesus came toward them / walking on the water. / They were scared out of their wits. / "A ghost!" / they said, / crying out in terror.

²⁷ But Jesus was quick to comfort them.
/ "Courage, / it's me. / Don't be afraid."

²⁸ Peter, / suddenly bold, / said, /
"Master, / if it's really you, / call me to
come to you on the water."



²⁹⁻³⁰ He said, / "Come ahead."

Jumping out of the boat, / Peter walked on the water to Jesus. / But when he looked down / at the waves churning beneath his feet, / he lost his nerve / and started to sink. / He cried, / "Master, / save me!"

31 Jesus didn't hesitate. / He reached down and grabbed his hand. / Then he said, / "Faint-heart, / what got into you?"

32-33 The two of them climbed into the boat, / and the wind died down. / The disciples in the boat, / having watched the whole thing, / worshiped Jesus, / saying, / "This is it! / You are God's Son for sure!"

34-36 On return, / they beached the boat at Gennesaret. / When the people got wind / that he was back, / they sent out word through the neighborhood / and rounded up all the sick, / who asked for permission / to touch the edge of his coat. / And whoever touched him was healed.

Vocabulary

1. To disperse: To go away. To break up.
2. To batter: To damage by heavy blows of wind and weather.
3. To beach something: Haul a boat ashore. To become stranded.
4. To round up people or animals: To gather a group of people.

Idioms

1. Scared out of one's wits: Very very frightened. Terrified. Unable to think.
2. To walk on the water: To do miraculous things.

3. What got into you? Why are you acting out of the ordinary for you?
4. To get wind of something: To hear something about a person or subject.

Questions

1. Why would Jesus send the people home immediately after he fed them?
2. Why did Jesus need time alone? How much time do you think he spent alone that night?
3. Why did Peter get out of the boat?
4. Peter is an ordinary man. Why could he walk on the water?
5. What did the people really want Jesus to do for them?

Notes

1. John 6:14-15: *After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.*
2. Jesus compelled or insisted his disciples get in the boat and go back across the lake. Why? Jesus had healed and fed the people. It is much the same story told in John, with John's addition of the attempt to make him king. Jesus needed the disciples to leave, and he then dispersed the crowd. It could have been a very

dangerous situation, for Jesus had much to do and his time had not yet come.

3. It was night and Jesus went to pray. He could express his grief over the murder of John the Baptist and spend time with God. It was a long day for Jesus. He received news, he left to be alone, the people followed, he healed them, he rejected a crown, and he sent the people away. Now, as night came, he could meditate and pray.
4. The disciples were on the lake, and a sudden storm came up. Since this is related in Matthew, Mark and John, it was a well know story about Jesus. Basically, he saw the boat in trouble, he walked toward the boat, and he calmed the sea.
5. Peter is interesting here. He is the emotional disciple in that he acts without thinking. According to the passage, he simply began walking toward Jesus. When he looked down, he began to sink into the water, but Jesus reached out and took his hand.
6. In the last two verses, they have landed at Gennesaret. And Jesus was recognized, and all who touched him were healed again. He is healing and healing without preaching. He is showing love, not just talking about it.

Herod the Great

- Died in 4 BC
- Effective administrator, cruel, supported by Rome
- Visited by wise men, killed Bethlehem babies
- Greatest builder the ancient Near East ever knew
- Had 10 wives, including Cleopatra, Miriam, and Malthace

Philip

- Son of Herod the Great and Cleopatra
- Effective ruler, popular king
- Ruled north and east of Galilee
- Built Caesarea Philippi
- See Luke 3:1

Antipas

- Son of Herod the Great and Malthace
- Ruled Galilee and Perea
- Killed John the Baptist
- Built Tiberias and Sepphoris
- Tried Jesus before crucifixion
- See Matt. 14:1-12; Luke 3:19; 9:7-9; 13:32; 23:7-12

Archelaus

- Son of Herod the Great and Malthace
- Poor ruler, deposed by Romans
- Ruled Judea
- Mary and Joseph settled in Nazareth to avoid him
- See Matt. 2:22

Herod Agrippa I

- Grandson of Herod the Great
- King of Jude
- Killed James, put Peter in prison
- Was struck down by an angel
- See Acts 12:1-24

Agrippa II

- Great-grandson of Herod the Great
- King of Judea
- Paul defends his faith before him
- See Acts 25:13, 26:32

Drusilla

- Great-granddaughter of Herod the Great, and Sister of Agrippa II
- Married Felix, the Roman governor
- See Acts 24:24

Bernice

- Great-granddaughter of Herod the Great, and Sister of Agrippa II
- With her brother at Paul's defense
- See Acts 25:13