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Matthew Chapter 13b And 14 A Mixture of Parables And Healings

As we returned to our study into Matthew chapter 13, we are going to take a look at the last few parables here within this particular chapter so that we can get a better idea of how and why our Messiah spoke in these parables this morning.

As we've already seen from last week's study, the very reason that our Messiah spoke in these parables is because there are some people that he did not want to hear what he was saying. Last week we spoke in some detail about the difference between the "us" and the "them" that our Messiah clearly speaks about. And we also spoke about the apostles who were also perplexed as to why he spoke in these parables instead of just coming out and speaking plainly. And upon being asked this very question by his apostles the answer that our Messiah immediately gives... is that to them (his Apostles) it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to "them" (meaning worldly people)... It has not been given.

This once again is an astounding statement that is coming directly from the very lips of our Messiah. To his apostles the secret of the kingdom of heaven was given. But to "them" it has not been given. And so, the question then becomes who is the "them" that Yeshua is speaking of? And once again, our Messiah answers that question as well within the confines of the next few verses when he tells us in verse 13 that the reason that he speaks to them in parables is because seeing they do not see and hearing they do not hear nor do they understand in their case the prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled that says and I quote, "you will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive."

And so last week we really took a deep dive into the difference between the "us" and the "them" that our Messiah speaks of and the biblical fact that the gospel

message of our Messiah clearly was not meant for everyone. And in order to get an even better and clearer picture of what our Messiah is painting here with these parables, we need only to jump down to verse 24 where our Messiah begins to speak about the parable of the weeds.

In Matthew chapter 13 verse 24, our Messiah begins to tell the crowds about another parable that has to do with a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while his workers were sleeping his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat then they went away. So, when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, “Master did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?” And he said to them, an enemy has done this. So, the servants said to him “then do you want us to go gather them?” But he said, “no, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned but gather the wheat into my barn.””

And a little bit farther down in verse 36 our Messiah explains the parable of the weeds and he tells his disciples that the one who shows good seeds is the Son of Man (which would be our Messiah himself who always refers to himself as “the Son of man). And our Messiah goes on to say that the field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. And I want to stop right here for just a moment, and I want to once again reiterate the fact that we who are the sons and daughters of the kingdom are indeed seen as... And treated differently from... The weeds who are the sons of the evil one and the devil himself who has planted them within our midst. There is a difference between us!

Once again, I would like to go back to the prophecy of David because in Matthew chapter 13 verses 34 and 35 Matthew clearly tells us that another reason that our Messiah came speaking in parables was because David who our Messiah came from... Had already prophesied that he would come speaking in parables. And I'd like us to take a look at that verse in **Matthew chapter 13 verses 34 and 35. E2**

Prophecy and Parables

Mat 13:34 All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable.

Mat 13:35 This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet: “I will open my mouth in

parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world.”

Keeping this in mind, I would now like to turn to the very verse that Matthew was citing from in Matthew chapter 13 verse 35. And we can find that in **Psalms chapter 78, and I would like to read verses one through eight. E1**

Tell the Coming Generation

Psa 78:1 A Maskil of Asaph. Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth!

Psa 78:2 I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, **Psa 78:3** things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us.

Psa 78:4 We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

Psa 78:5 He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children,

Psa 78:6 that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children,

Psa 78:7 so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments;

Psa 78:8 and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God.

Obviously, Matthew felt it necessary to quote a verse from this particular Psalm that once again proved beyond the shadow of a doubt who our Messiah was and why he came speaking in parables. And therefore, because this verse was important enough for Matthew to cite in the New Testament... I think that it is extremely valuable for us to go back and take a look at where it was that Matthew took this verse from and ask ourselves why he took this particular verse from this particular Psalm.

Here, in Psalms chapter 78 verse two we find the verse that Matthew quotes from where David says, “I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known that our fathers have told us.” But what is important here is also what we find surrounding that particular verse. What else does Psalms chapter 78 tell us? Notice, that Psalms chapter 78 also goes on to say” we will not hide them from their children but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of Yehovah, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. And once again David reminds us in verse five that, “he established his testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, so that... the next generation might know them, the children yet

unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that... They should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God but **keep his commandments.**”

Now my friends I want us to stop right here, and I want us to think about exactly what it is that David is telling us right here in Psalms chapter 78. And while we're thinking about this, I want us to also think about who our Messiah came from according to second Samuel chapter 7. According to second Samuel chapter 7 our Messiah came from the very body of David. It is written in the very first sentence of our New Testaments that Yeshua (Jesus in the Greek) was indeed the Son of David.

And so, here we have David who was the human father of Yeshua according to second Samuel chapter 7... speaking these things that Matthew is quoting from in Matthew chapter 13.

And so, if Matthew is quoting from and directly pointing to Psalms chapter 78 and what David said... Should we not be able to trust everything that David said? Would Matthew quote from David if David could not be trusted, or if what David said was now all of a sudden irrelevant? And I want us to think about that question for just a moment.

The very reason that our Messiah came from the very body of David according to second Samuel chapter 7 is because David was a man who was after God's own heart. Yehovah favored David because even when David fell and stumbled... David knew how to repent properly. David knew full well that the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, and a broken and contrite heart. These are what the sacrifices of God must begin with. And David fully knew and understood the power of a broken spirit and a contrite heart. And this was exactly why Yehovah God favored his faithful servant David and promised David in second Samuel chapter 7 that our Messiah Yeshua was going to come from the very body of David and it would be David's son that Yehovah would raise up and establish a kingdom for. And so, let us once again return to second Samuel chapter 7 so that we can properly understand who this David is that Matthew is quoting from in Matthew chapter 13. In order to know that, let's turn to **second Samuel chapter 7 verses 12 through 17 E3**

2Sa 7:12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

2Sa 7:13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his

kingdom forever.

2Sa 7:14 I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men,

2Sa 7:15 but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you.

2Sa 7:16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

2Sa 7:17 In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

Now my friends, we cannot read this passage enough. This passage of the Bible needs to be embedded within our hearts and within our minds. Because it is this very passage that will protect us from many of the deceptions of the writings of men and their denominational dogmas and philosophical assumptions. The point that I am trying to get across here this morning is that when Matthew quotes from David in Matthew chapter 13... He is giving credence not only to David... but to his heavenly Father who chose David to be the human father of the Son of Man!

And so, keeping this in mind, and knowing who David was and why it is that Matthew chose David's Scripture to quote from here in Matthew chapter 13, let us now return to Psalms chapter 78 and listen extremely closely to what David has to say about the message of the one who will come speaking in parables. What was this message supposed to be all about according to David? **E1 (show again)**

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Psa 78:5 He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children,

Psa 78:6 that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children,

Psa 78:7 so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments;

Psa 78:8 and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God.

According to David who Yehovah God had chosen to bring the Messiah forth from... And according to David who Matthew quotes from in Matthew chapter 13... David says that the one who will open his mouth in a parable and will utter dark sayings from of old... things that we have heard and known that our fathers have told us... is going to be the one to tell the coming generation of the glorious deeds of Yehovah and his might and the wonders that he has done. But this is not all!

According to David here in Psalms chapter 78, this one who comes to open his mouth in a parable will also tell the coming generation that Yehovah God had established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a Torah... a law... in Israel which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children so that... the next generation might know them and so that the children yet unborn would arise and tell them to their children so that... they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments, get that my friend... So that they would keep his commandments and so that... they would not be like their fathers were a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, and who's spirit was not faithful to God.

And so, the question then becomes are we hearing what it is that David is telling us right here in Psalms chapter 78, and do we understand why it is that our Messiah is speaking to the people in parables? He was speaking to the people in parables because David said that he would speak to the people in parables. And according to David, this same one that would open his mouth in a parable was going to be sent to reaffirm that Yehovah God had established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law... A Torah... In Israel which he commanded our fathers to teach their children that the next generation might know them. Children yet unborn would arise and tell them to their children. Why? So that today's hucksters could stand behind our modern-day pulpits and blaspheme our Father in heaven by calling his law a curse? So that today's Roman Catholic Church and her daughter protestant churches could hide our Father's appointments and his feast days and his precepts and create their own appointments and feast days and precepts?

I tell you the truth my friends... all of this points directly to the weeds that the devil has sown among the sons of God! All of this uncovers the self-made geniuses that are standing behind today's modern-day denominational pulpits spewing the black oil of the devil himself all over the world so that the world would indeed become worldly and like the little "g" god of this world and not like the Elohim of Abraham,

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Psa 78:8 and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God.

What we read from Psalms chapter 78 which is a fulfillment of our Messiah who came to open his mouth in a parable and to once again establish the testimony in Jacob and the appointed Torah in Israel so that our fathers would teach their children that this next generation might know them and so that the children yet unborn might rise up and tell them to their children, so that they would set their hope in God and not forget the works of God but keep his commandments is tectonically important to understand! And so that they would not be like their fathers who were a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast and whose spirit was not faithful to God. This is why according to David... Yeshua came to open his mouth in a parable.

You see this was the very mission statement of Yeshua Hamashiach our Messiah! His very mission statement is listed right here in Psalms chapter 78 for all the world to see and this is why he spoke in parables to fulfill this prophecy of David his human father... The chosen one of Yehovah God... Whose throne our Messiah sits on this very day. We must always remember that it is the throne of David that our Messiah sits upon. **Jeremiah chapter 33 verse 17 (scrn 1)**

David Shal Never Lack A Man To Sit On The Throne of Israel!

Jer 33:17 “For thus says the LORD: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel,

Jer 33:18 and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to make sacrifices forever.”



It has always been prophesied through the prophets that David would never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel just as Yehovah God promised David in second Samuel chapter 7. And so, the point is... that the mission statement of this one who would come speaking in parables is extremely clear when we read what David prophesied that this one who would come speaking in a parable would say and do.

Yeshua came to once again remind us of what it was established as a testimony within Jacob and appointed as a law in Israel and this is exactly what David is telling us here in Psalms chapter 78. And the fulfillment of Psalms chapter 78 is indeed found within Matthew chapter 13 where we read about our Messiah who came to open his mouth in a parable speaking these exact same things that David prophesied that he would speak about all throughout his ministry.

And so, this is just a little tucked away blessing that is found within Matthew chapter 13 that many modern-day Christians never uncover because of their disdain for everything found in the Old Testament. And this once again is a shame for us when we don't take the time to understand the Old Testament so that we can properly understand the New Testament. What we always need to remember is that the New Testament is simply the unfolding of the Old Testament. The New

Testament is the fulfillment of the Old Testament. And when you get right down to it and when you become well studied... It becomes apparent and quite evident that the Bible itself should never have been divided into the Old Testament and the New Testament. God did not do that, man did that. The Bible itself is one testament. It is one testament, it is one story, it is one prophecy, it is the unfolding plan of Yehovah the one true Elohim of Abraham Isaac and Jacob that leads his people back to the Garden of Eden full-circle back to the tree of life just as he intended from the very beginning and this is exactly why it is written that he teaches us the end from the beginning.

Moving on in Matthew chapter 13 to the parable of the hidden treasure found in verse 44, I love this particular parable about the kingdom of heaven being like hidden treasure hidden in a field that a man found and covered up. And I love that our Messiah says that the man then goes and sells all that he has in order to buy the field. This once again pointing directly to the fact that we are to save up our treasure in the kingdom to come... and not here on earth.

There are so many things that we seek after here on this earth. Everyone wants a big house, everyone wants a new vehicle, everyone wants a big screen TV, everyone wants the newest iPhone, everyone wants to dress like their favorite movie star or their favorite sports hero. But in the end, all of these things that we have will be passed on to someone else when we leave.

Everything that we own here on this earth, everything that we are using and enjoying today will be passed on to someone else eventually. None of this goes with us where we are going. None of this can be saved. None of this has any value after death and after we pass through the veil that stands between life here on earth and life in our Father's kingdom.

And so, it makes no sense to be saving up our treasure here on this earth. It makes no sense to save up a treasure that you can't take with you. The best that you can hope for is that someone else will come after you that can use these things and that these things might be of value to them while they're still here. And what we should be thinking of is will the things that I leave behind for someone else be used for the glory of Yehovah and his only begotten Son? Or will these things... This earthly treasure that I have amassed... Be used to lead someone away from Yehovah and his only begotten Son?

What will the next person watch on that big screen TV? What will the next person hear on that new iPhone? What will all of this sports paraphernalia accomplish in the next person's life? What will this big house and this new car do to further the faith of the next person who will ultimately receive it? Are any of these things going to be used to expand our Messiahs soon coming kingdom. Or... Will all of this garbage and trash be used to lead someone away and to hide the truth and the Kingdom from them?

And these are legitimate questions that we should be asking ourselves. What is it that we are leaving our children behind? Are we leaving behind a bunch of Texas chainsaw massacre videos and mindless video games full of death and debauchery and demons? What will our children inherit after we are gone? And what have these material things done to help us further our faith? And will we have passed the test by using these things that we have amassed in this life to promote his kingdom? Will all of these earthly things have helped us to grow our faith? Will all of these earthly things have helped us to build a relationship with our Messiah and King? Will all of these earthly things have assisted us in returning back to our Father in heaven? Or will all of this junk... Be used by someone else... who will ultimately make themselves friends of the world just as we did?

Food for thought.

And something else extremely important to understand in Matthew chapter 13 is the rejection of our Messiah in Nazareth the very town that he grew up in. As we get down to the bottom of Matthew chapter 13, we read that those in our Messiah's own hometown were the least likely to believe who he was and what he came for. They couldn't possibly understand where this man had gotten this wisdom from. They knew him as the carpenter's son, and they knew his mother Mary and they knew his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas. And so, they couldn't imagine that this man could have possibly been sent from God. And this is something that we all must keep in mind because it is this very concept that causes many of us to fall.

When we come to the knowledge of the truth many of our friends and family who know us the best will doubt the blessing that has been bestowed upon us. They know who are fathers and mothers are. They know who our brothers and sisters are. They've seen us around town 100 different times. And they cannot imagine that God has reached down from heaven and chosen us and revealed himself to us.

For them it is difficult to understand how someone that they have known all of their lives could have a direct connection to Yehovah God himself and his only begotten Son. Our faith and the change in our walk and the change in our demeanor and in our character and who we have become is often times rejected by the people who are the closest to us. Because they think that they know us... Because they think that they know who we are... Because they think that we will never change... They cannot possibly believe that the work of God himself is being done right there in their midst. And why? Because they have no faith, they themselves have no eyes, they have no ears, and they have no understanding because they themselves have never asked for it. And just as our Messiah tells us in Matthew chapter 13 verse 57, “a prophet is not without honor except... except... in his hometown and in his own household.”

Even our very own Messiah was rejected in his hometown where he grew up. And it is written that he did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief. And so, these words once again should speak volumes to us as his disciples. Do not allow the devil to wear you down by those who are closest to you. This is one of the devil’s favorite weapons. He will indeed use the people closest to us to steal our crown. He will indeed use people within our own home against us and he will make them our spiritual enemies. Keeping that in mind I’d like us to go back and once again read the red-letter words of our Messiah found in **Matthew chapter 10 versus 34 through 39 E4**

Not Peace, but a Sword

Mat 10:34 “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

Mat 10:35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.

Mat 10:36 And a person's enemies will be those of his own household.

Mat 10:37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

Mat 10:38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

Mat 10:39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Almost every week at least once... we hear from a brother or a sister who is dealing with someone in their own home who simply will not believe. We hear this same story time and time and time again over, and over, and over again. I am doing the best I can, but my wife will not believe. I am doing the very best that I can, but my

husband simply will not believe. I am doing the best I can, but my kids won't believe. And this is a burden for many of us. But what we must remember is that it is the division that our Messiah came to bring. And many of us are in this position because we ignorantly married outside of the body. Because we were not walking in the way when we got married... We wound up being married to someone who has no faith. And because of our disobedience... this indeed is a curse that we are forced to now live with.

And in some cases, either the husband or the wife has fallen away and has returned like a dog to its vomit and like a pig to its mire. But in either case it really makes no difference because the people within our own household have indeed become our enemies who do not understand our relationship with our Father in heaven and his only begotten Son because they do not have the same relationship that we have been blessed with nor do they seek it. They would rather choose the fellowship and comradery and companionship of the world.

Believe it or not, this is just another weapon that the devil uses against us in order to try to break us. The very reason that many of us are not accepted within our own hometowns is because of the lack of faith in our own hometowns. Even those who profess to be Christians are often times anything but Christians. It is written that many are called but only few are chosen. It is also written that straight is the gate and narrow is the path and few... Not many... But few there be that find it. And therefore, we as true God-fearing Messiah following cross bearing Christian should not expect that the majority of our family and our friends are going to have the same faith that we have and be blessed with the same blessings that we are blessed with.

And you can believe me when I say that this is indeed heartbreaking. This is a huge weight on the shoulders of believers today. It is because we love our family and our friends and our children that we want the best for them. It is because we love our family and our friends that we speak the way that we speak and that we walked the way that we walk in that we reject the things that we reject. And yet... They do not understand. Not because they can't understand... But because they willfully and intentionally refuse to understand. They have made themselves friends of the world and because they have made themselves friends of the world, they willfully and intentionally choose not to see or to hear the things that are outside of this world.

My heart goes out to those who wind up losing their faith because of their friends

and their loved ones who have made themselves friends of the world. My heart goes out to those who began to take root and yet... Were scorched by the sun and withered away because of the unbelief of those around them. But we must always remember that according to our Messiah it will only be those who endure to the end that will be saved. It will only be those who conquer that will be saved. It will only be those who accept persecution for his namesake... That will be saved. **Hebrews chapter 10 verses 35 through 39 (scn 2)**

We Are Not of Those Who Shrink Back!

Heb 10:35 Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.

Heb 10:36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

Heb 10:37 For, "Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay;

Heb 10:38 but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him."

Heb 10:39 But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.



Whatever we do, we must not throw away our confidence which has great reward. We do indeed have need of endurance. We do not want to be of those who shrink back because if we shrink back our Messiah's soul will have no pleasure in us and just as it is written here in the book of Hebrews chapter 10 verse 39, it will be those who shrink back that are destroyed. If we allow the devil to sift us through our friends and our family and our loved ones... We will be among those who will shrink back. If we allow our family and our friends and our loved ones to dictate to us how it is that we should keep the Sabbath, or how it is that we should live, or how it is that we should walk, or what it is that we should accept or reject... We will be numbered among those who have shrunk back and are destroyed.

Our Messiah was very clear when he said in Matthew chapter 12 verse 30 and I

quote, “he who is not with me is against me and whoever does not gather with me scatters.” Therefore, let us not be found amongst those who are against our Messiah who came to turn us around and bring us back to his Father. Our Messiah, who came to purchase us with his very blood pouring out upon us the new covenant which according to Jeremiah chapter 31 writes our Father’s law in our hearts and in our minds so that we can be his people, and so that he can be our Elohim is waiting and watching us as this great test comes upon us.

What we find in here in Matthew chapter 13 is extremely important to understand. And my hope and my prayer is that as we close out this study into Matthew chapter 13 that we will have all received a blessing from this most important study.

Moving on into Matthew chapter 14 the first thing that we see is the death of John the Baptist. We will also read about our Messiah feeding more than 5000 people and we will see him walking on water, and we will once again see him healing the sick in Gennesaret. And so, we will go from parables to the death of John the Baptist who did indeed endure to the end and did indeed conquer over evil... To the miracles that were performed by our Messiah because the spirit of his Father dwelt within him.

And so, let us once again open our books to Matthew chapter 14 so that we can read it for ourselves and know exactly what it says and just as importantly what it does not say. **Matthew chapter 14 E5**

The Death of John the Baptist

Mat 14:1 At that time Herod the tetrarch heard about the fame of Jesus,

Mat 14:2 and he said to his servants, “This is John the Baptist. He has been raised from the dead; that is why these miraculous powers are at work in him.”

Mat 14:3 For Herod had seized John and bound him and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife,

Mat 14:4 because John had been saying to him, “It is not lawful for you to have her.”

Mat 14:5 And though he wanted to put him to death, he feared the people, because they held him to be a prophet.

Mat 14:6 But when Herod's birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced before the company and pleased Herod,

Mat 14:7 so that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask.

Mat 14:8 Prompted by her mother, she said, “Give me the head of John the Baptist

here on a platter.”

Mat 14:9 And the king was sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he commanded it to be given.

Mat 14:10 He sent and had John beheaded in the prison,

Mat 14:11 and his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother.

Mat 14:12 And his disciples came and took the body and buried it, and they went and told Jesus.

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

Mat 14:13 Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns.

Mat 14:14 When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

Mat 14:15 Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.”

Mat 14:16 But Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.”

Mat 14:17 They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.”

Mat 14:18 And he said, “Bring them here to me.”

Mat 14:19 Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.

Mat 14:20 And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over.

Mat 14:21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Jesus Walks on the Water

Mat 14:22 Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

Mat 14:23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,

Mat 14:24 but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them.

Mat 14:25 And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea.

Mat 14:26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear.

Mat 14:27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

Mat 14:28 And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

Mat 14:29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus.

Mat 14:30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me."

Mat 14:31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

Mat 14:32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

Mat 14:33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Jesus Heals the Sick in Gennesaret

Mat 14:34 And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

Mat 14:35 And when the men of that place recognized him, they sent around to all that region and brought to him all who were sick

Mat 14:36 and implored him that they might only touch the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

The very first thing that we see here in Matthew chapter 14 is that Herod who had murdered John the Baptist through the wicked devices of Herodias (his illegitimate mistress who was his brother's wife)... Upon hearing the fame of Yeshua believed that John the Baptist had been raised from the dead.

The very reason that Herod was frightened was because he believed that John the Baptist whom he had murdered had been raised from the dead and was this Yeshua Jesus that was gaining fame all across the land the same way that John the Baptist was. And to some degree... Herod was right. It was not John the Baptist himself who was raised from the dead of course, but the very spirit that John the Baptist had was once again alive and well in Yeshua (Jesus in the Greek).

And so, even Herod saw the same spirit in Yeshua as he did in John the Baptist. So much so that he thought that they were one and the same person. And I would once again like to stop right here for just a moment so that we might think about this for a second.

When we as believers become one... When we become of one mind and one accord... When we walk the same, and when we talk the same, and when we accept the same things, and when we reject the same things... We do indeed become so much alike that others may assume that we have been raised from the dead when they see our brothers and our sisters who are also of one mind and of one accord walking the same way, talking the same way, accepting the same things, and rejecting the same things. And so, it should not surprise us that Herod thought that John the Baptist had been raised from the dead in the form of Yeshua.

My wife often times gets perturbed with my son Matthew, and she oftentimes says to him “oh you’re just like your father”. Upon which time we both just smile and hope that’s meant as a blessing. Unfortunately, I’m not sure that it always is meant that way... but I digress. But the point that I’m trying to make here is that this is exactly what we hope for as we walk in the ways of our Father in heaven, and as we talk as he talks, and as we accept the things that he accepts, and as we reject the things that he rejects. Just as our Messiah told his apostles... “If you’ve seen me, you seen my Father.”

Each and every one of us should be able to make that same statement. If we are walking in his ways, if we are rejecting what is unclean, if we are keeping his spoken word, and if we are doing his will, and if we have willfully and intentionally picked up our cross and are following our Messiah and doing as he did and walking as he walked... we ought to be able to say... “If you see me, you see my Father.”

And so, the fact that Herod thought that Yeshua was John the Baptist should be of no surprise to us. And although this might seem somewhat comical to us at first glance, this is exactly what we should be striving for as modern-day Christians today.

As we move down into Matthew chapter 14 verse 13, we begin to read about the miracle of our Messiah feeding not just 5000... But at least twice that many. Notice in Matthew chapter 14 verse 21 that it says, and I quote, “and those who ate were about 5000 men, besides women and children.”

And therefore, the people that our Messiah fed with only five loaves of bread and two fish were at least twice 5000 because the 5000 only included the men, it didn’t include the women and the children. And this is just one of the supernatural

miracles that our Messiah performed in front of thousands of people.

Almost all of us have heard what is written in Matthew chapter 14 verses 22 through 33 where we read about the story of our Messiah walking on water. If you ever heard someone say, “you just think you walk on water”? This old cliché comes directly from the book of Matthew chapter 14. And I love these miracles that our Messiah did not only in front of the apostles but in front of all of these people because once again it shows us that our Messiah was not alone.

Because our Messiah was the only begotten Son of God, his Father was never far from him. The very spirit of Yehovah dwelt securely within the confines of Yeshua our Messiah and there should be no mistake about this. No mortal man without the spirit of God could have done the things that this mortal man did. We must remember that our Messiah was created by our Father in heaven from the very body of David according to second Samuel chapter 7 that we just read earlier in this study. And therefore, no mere mortal man could have done the things that our Messiah did without the power and the authority of Yehovah God himself.

And so, once again, this is why these supernatural miracles were so very important for not only the people of his time to witness, but for us to also witness through these God breathed Scripture.

Let us not build our houses in the sand my friends. Let us build our houses on the rock that is the word of God that our Messiah became through his obedience in the flesh. And let us always remember that our Messiah was given the power and the authority to do these things by his Father in heaven, which we'll get more into next 7th day Sabbath.

And with that being said, we will close the books for this Sabbath day, and we will pick up where we left off here in Matthew chapter 14 next seventh day Sabbath at 11 AM Eastern standard Time.

Until then... I will do as I always do and once again ask as I always do... that everyone within the sound of my voice would please... take what you have heard here today to your own prayer closet, and bow your head, and bend your knee, and face the holy promised land of Jerusalem, and ask in the name of Yeshua Hamashiach if what you have heard here today be true... or not.

Ask, seek, and knock on his door, and his door alone and the proper door will be opened to you. And if you will do that, and if you will stay the course to the end... you and I will surely walk through the gates of his soon coming kingdom together.