

19—Multiplying Bread and Walking on Water

Matthew 14:13-36; Mk 6:30-46; Luke 9:10-17

1. The disciples had just been sent on the limited commission and had great success (Mark 6:13; Luke 9:6). However, what event had just occurred which may have easily dampened the spirits of the apostles (Matthew 14:3-12; Mark 6:17-29; Luke 9:7-9)? Does Jesus immediately go back to teaching or try to take a few moments to get away from the crowd (Mark 6:32; Luke 9:10)?

2. Strangely, what does this tragedy combined with the popularity and appeal of Jesus cause the multitudes to do (Mark 6:33; Luke 9:11)? What do you think the natives thought of Herod, the local politician after this event? Who do you think they are hoping might replace him?

3. As the disciples are near Bethsaida, Philip's hometown (John 1:44), what problem do they encounter with the people as the evening nears (Matthew 14:15-17; Mark 6:35-38; Luke 9:11-13)?

4. What does Jesus do to resolve the problem (Matthew 14:17-21; Mark 6:39-44; Luke 9:14-17)? What evidence is found within these gospel accounts to prove the reality of this miracle?

5. Besides the resurrection, this miracle is the only miracle recorded in all four gospels. In John's account, what was the conclusion of the people about the identity of Jesus after this miracle (John 6:14-15)? Why might this miracle involving "bread" have reminded them of Moses the prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15; Exodus 16:4, 17-18)? Did Moses also perform a "water" miracle (Exodus 17:6)?

6. Jesus attempts to get away from the crowd, again, after this miracle. What does He go and do by Himself on the mountain (Matthew 14:23; Mark 6:46)? With this in mind, what did Jesus do *before* He sent His disciples to teach as well as *after* He taught His disciples?

7. What happens while his disciples are out on the sea in boats (Matthew 14:24; Mark 6:47; John 6:16-18)? What does Jesus do as He becomes aware of their situation (Matthew 14:25; Mark 6:48; John 6:19)? What simple lesson can we learn about Jesus wanting to come and help?

8. Even though Jesus wants to help, He comes in a unique way. How do the disciples initially react (Matthew 14:26-27; Mark 6:48-50)? When God asks us to do something we have not done before how do we react and what would Jesus say to us (Matthew 14:28; Mark 6:50-51)?

9. What does Peter want to do when he sees Jesus on the water (Matthew 14:28-29)? Why does he begin to sink and what does Jesus say to him (14:30-31)? What spiritual analogies can we make from this incredible moment?



10. After the miracle, how do the disciples respond to Jesus (Matthew 14:32-33; Mark 6:51-53)? How do the crowds react to Jesus as He reaches the shore (Matthew 14:34-36; Mark 6:54-56)? Even today, what ought to be our response to this Jesus?