

(Matt. 14:1-12) – DEATH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST. Telling the Gospel to an unregenerate and unbelieving world can be dangerous. The world hates the truth of salvation by God's grace the Lord Jesus Christ as it demands total trust in and love to Christ alone and demands repentance of all else (John 3:19-20). It also forces us to tell the truth about all our sins. By nature, man likes to hide or ignore his sins, but God's Word will not allow us to do that. In the power of the Holy Spirit, God brings us to face the reality and wickedness of all our sins. When "*HEROD THE TETRARCH*" (Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great) "*HEARD OF THE FAME OF JESUS*" (the miracles), he believed it was "*JOHN THE BAPTIST ... RISEN FROM THE DEAD.*" Herod had become so enamored with John's power and popularity that he became obsessed with him. John preached the Gospel and pointed sinners to Christ for all salvation, righteousness, forgiveness, and eternal life. He also told the truth about Herod's unlawful marriage to his brother Philip's wife, Herodias. She urged Herod to imprison John. Later, on Herod's birthday, Herodias devised a plan using her daughter to dance for and seduce Herod, who was probably drunk, to grant her whatever she wanted. Herodias told her daughter to ask for John's head on a platter. The disciples of John came and claimed his body and buried it. John went in spirit to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

(Matt. 14:13-21) – CHRIST FEEDS THE MULTITUDE. This miracle, like all miracles, proved His power as God manifest in the flesh, and it served to illustrate how He Himself is the Bread of life, the complete salvation of all His people (His sheep) (John 6:22-59). There were over five thousand people in this multitude but only "*FIVE LOAVES AND TWO FISHES.*" Christ took this small amount of food and turned it into such a feast that "*THEY DID ALL EAT, AND WERE FILLED.*" What a great picture of how the one sacrifice of one Person, the Lord Jesus Christ, is Himself enough to feed and fill ALL His people with righteousness and life eternal, along with all the many blessings of His grace (Matt. 5:6; John 4:14; Rom. 8:32; Eph. 1:3; Heb. 10:14). "*Christ is all, and in all*" (Col. 3:11).

(Matt. 14:22-32) – CHRIST WALKS ON WATER. Again, here is another miracle that proves Christ's power as Godman, the one true Messiah. He controls and commands the elements to serve His purpose to glorify Himself in His sovereign majesty. This incident of Him walking on water gives us a very special and powerful lesson for all sinners who desire and seek the salvation which is of the Lord. Salvation involves the Lord God sending forth the Holy Spirit to give us spiritual life which includes spiritual eyes to see and spiritual ears to hear things that by nature we cannot see and hear of the glory of God revealed in the glorious Person and finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is described in passages like *Isaiah 45:21-22* and *Hebrews 12:1-2*.

This is the look of faith in God as both *“a just God and a Savior,”* i.e. God Who justifies the ungodly based on the merits of Christ’s obedience unto death as our Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer (Rom. 3:24-27; 4:1-8). This is the evidence of sinners saved by grace and who are forgiven of all their sins by His blood and justified in His righteousness imputed. God-given faith looks to and rests in Christ (Rom. 10:1-4). This is looking to Christ as the Beginner and Completer of our faith, meaning our whole salvation, from start to finish. It was (and is) all conditioned on Him, and He fulfilled all the conditions completely to secure the salvation of all for whom He died and arose again.

When the disciples first saw the Lord walking on water, they did not recognize Him until He spoke – *“BE OF GOOD CHEER; IT IS I; BE NOT AFRAID.”* The Lord revealed Himself to them and gave them no reason to fear the storm. Their confidence was to be in Him as He is sovereign over the elements. As long as Christ is our hope, we are safe from all that would condemn and destroy us (Rom. 8:1,31-39). Christ told us that in this world we would have trouble, *“but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world”* (John 16:33). Christ has conquered sin, Satan, death, the flesh, and the world for us.

Peter cried out, *“LORD, IF IT BE THOU, BID ME COME UNTO THEE ON THE WATER.”* Salvation involves coming to Christ. As long as Peter kept his eyes on Christ, *“HE WALKED ON THE WATER.”* But when he took his eyes off of Christ and looked at the stormy sea, he began to sink and *“CRIED, SAYING, LORD, SAVE ME.”* This is our continual cry in times of trouble. We must not look to ourselves or others. We must not look at our circumstances. We must look to Christ always for our hope! CHRIST IS OUR SALVATION, NOW AND FOREVER! *“AND IMMEDIATELY JESUS STRETCHED FORTH HIS HAND, AND CAUGHT HIM”* – The Lord never hesitates or fails to save His sheep whom He loves and keeps them safe.

“O THOU OF LITTLE FAITH, WHEREFORE DIDST THOU DOUBT?” – This is the case of every believer in this world. Our faith will always be in a struggle against our doubts and unbelief (2 Tim. 2:13). But even *“little faith”* looks to Christ for all salvation. Our security is not in the strength of our faith. It is in the strength of our Savior in Whom we have faith. The more we look to and learn of Him, the more our faith will grow and flourish (2 Pet. 3:17-18). *“AND WHEN THEY WERE COME INTO THE SHIP, THE WIND CEASED”* – Christ calmed the storm, and this is the case of all who are in the ship of His kingdom with and in Him.

(Matt. 14:34-36) – Here is another historical account of our Lord’s healing ministry, showing Him to be God manifest in the flesh, the one true Messiah Who is able to save His people from their sins. He healed all that came to Him. *“AND AS MANY AS TOUCHED”* the hem of His garment, *“WERE MADE PERFECTLY WHOLE.”* There was no magical power in Christ’s robe. The power was (and is) in HIM. Their wanting to touch the hem of His robe was an expression of their faith in Him to heal them of their infirmities.