

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *THE BIBLE IS LIKE NO OTHER BOOK, FOR IT HOLDS THE VERY WORDS OF GOD, WHICH HAVE POWER TO CHANGE THE LIVES OF ANY WHO READ IT AND PUT THEIR FAITH IN OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. PSALM 34:8 SAYS, "OH, TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD! BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO TAKES REFUGE IN HIM!" THROUGH THE NEBRASKA LIVING TIMES YOU MAY "TASTE" AND SEE THE GOODNESS OF GOD THROUGH HIS VERY OWN WORDS, EACH MONTH, RIGHT HERE. MAY GOD BLESS YOU WITH HIS WORD!*

## The Book of Matthew

(CONTINUED JANUARY 2017)

### CHAPTER 14

#### JOHN THE BAPTIST BEHEADED

1 AT THAT TIME HEROD THE TETRARCH HEARD THE REPORTS ABOUT JESUS, 2 AND HE SAID TO HIS ATTENDANTS, "THIS IS JOHN THE BAPTIST; HE HAS RISEN FROM THE DEAD! THAT IS WHY MIRACULOUS POWERS ARE AT WORK IN HIM."

3 NOW HEROD HAD ARRESTED JOHN AND BOUND HIM AND PUT HIM IN PRISON BECAUSE OF HERODIAS, HIS BROTHER PHILIP'S WIFE, 4 FOR JOHN HAD BEEN SAYING TO HIM: "IT IS NOT LAWFUL FOR YOU TO HAVE HER." 5 HEROD WANTED TO KILL JOHN, BUT HE WAS AFRAID OF THE PEOPLE, BECAUSE THEY CONSIDERED JOHN A PROPHET.

6 ON HEROD'S BIRTHDAY THE DAUGHTER OF HERODIAS DANCED FOR THE GUESTS AND PLEASSED HEROD SO MUCH 7 THAT HE PROMISED WITH AN OATH TO GIVE HER WHATEVER SHE ASKED. 8 PROMPTED BY HER MOTHER, SHE SAID, "GIVE ME HERE ON A PLATTER THE HEAD OF JOHN THE BAPTIST." 9 THE KING WAS DISTRESSED, BUT BECAUSE OF HIS OATHS AND HIS DINNER GUESTS, HE ORDERED THAT HER REQUEST BE GRANTED 10 AND HAD JOHN BEHEADED IN THE PRISON. 11 HIS HEAD WAS BROUGHT IN ON A PLATTER AND GIVEN TO THE GIRL, WHO CARRIED IT TO HER MOTHER. 12 JOHN'S DISCIPLES CAME AND TOOK HIS BODY AND BURIED IT. THEN THEY WENT AND TOLD JESUS.

#### JESUS FEEDS THE FIVE THOUSAND

13 WHEN JESUS HEARD WHAT HAD HAPPENED, HE WITHDREW BY BOAT PRIVATELY TO A SOLITARY PLACE. HEARING OF THIS, THE CROWDS FOLLOWED HIM ON FOOT FROM THE TOWNS. 14 WHEN JESUS LANDED AND SAW A LARGE CROWD, HE HAD COMPASSION ON THEM AND HEALED THEIR SICK.

15 AS EVENING APPROACHED, THE DISCIPLES CAME TO HIM AND SAID, "THIS IS A REMOTE PLACE, AND IT'S ALREADY GETTING LATE. SEND THE CROWDS AWAY, SO THEY CAN GO TO THE VILLAGES AND BUY THEMSELVES SOME FOOD."

16 JESUS REPLIED, "THEY DO NOT NEED TO GO AWAY. YOU GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT."

17 "WE HAVE HERE ONLY FIVE LOAVES OF BREAD AND TWO FISH," THEY ANSWERED.

18 "BRING THEM HERE TO ME,"

HE SAID. 19 AND HE DIRECTED THE PEOPLE TO SIT DOWN ON THE GRASS. TAKING THE FIVE LOAVES AND THE TWO FISH AND LOOKING UP TO HEAVEN, HE GAVE THANKS AND BROKE THE LOAVES. THEN HE GAVE THEM TO THE DISCIPLES, AND THE DISCIPLES GAVE THEM TO THE PEOPLE. 20 THEY ALL ATE AND WERE SATISFIED, AND THE DISCIPLES PICKED UP TWELVE BASKETFULS OF BROKEN PIECES THAT WERE LEFT OVER. 21 THE NUMBER OF THOSE WHO ATE WAS ABOUT FIVE THOUSAND MEN, BESIDES WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

#### JESUS WALKS ON THE WATER

22 IMMEDIATELY JESUS MADE THE DISCIPLES GET INTO THE BOAT AND GO ON AHEAD OF HIM TO THE OTHER SIDE, WHILE HE DISMISSED THE CROWD. 23 AFTER HE HAD DISMISSED THEM, HE WENT UP ON A MOUNTAINSIDE BY HIMSELF TO PRAY. LATER THAT NIGHT, HE WAS THERE ALONE, 24 AND THE BOAT WAS ALREADY A CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE FROM LAND, BUFFETED BY THE WAVES BECAUSE THE WIND WAS AGAINST IT.

25 SHORTLY BEFORE DAWN JESUS WENT OUT TO THEM, WALKING ON THE LAKE. 26 WHEN THE DISCIPLES SAW HIM WALKING ON THE LAKE, THEY WERE TERRIFIED. "IT'S A GHOST," THEY SAID, AND CRIED OUT IN FEAR.

27 BUT JESUS IMMEDIATELY SAID TO THEM: "TAKE COURAGE! IT IS I. DON'T BE AFRAID."

28 "LORD, IF IT'S YOU," PETER REPLIED, "TELL ME TO COME TO YOU ON THE WATER."

29 "COME," HE SAID.

THEN PETER GOT DOWN OUT OF THE BOAT, WALKED ON THE WATER AND CAME TOWARD JESUS. 30 BUT WHEN HE SAW THE WIND, HE WAS AFRAID AND, BEGINNING TO SINK, CRIED OUT, "LORD, SAVE ME!"

31 IMMEDIATELY JESUS REACHED OUT HIS HAND AND CAUGHT HIM. "YOU OF LITTLE FAITH," HE SAID, "WHY DID YOU DOUBT?"

32 AND WHEN THEY CLIMBED INTO THE BOAT, THE WIND DIED DOWN. 33 THEN THOSE WHO WERE IN THE BOAT WORSHIPED HIM, SAYING, "TRULY YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD."

34 WHEN THEY HAD CROSSED OVER, THEY LANDED AT GENNESARET. 35 AND WHEN THE MEN OF THAT PLACE RECOGNIZED JESUS, THEY SENT WORD TO ALL THE SURROUNDING COUNTRY. PEOPLE BROUGHT ALL THEIR SICK TO HIM 36

AND BEGGED HIM TO LET THE SICK JUST TOUCH THE EDGE OF HIS CLOAK, AND ALL WHO TOUCHED IT WERE HEALED.

### CHAPTER 15 THAT WHICH DEFILES

1 THEN SOME PHARISEES AND TEACHERS OF THE LAW CAME TO JESUS FROM JERUSALEM AND ASKED, 2 "WHY DO YOUR DISCIPLES BREAK THE TRADITION OF THE ELDERS? THEY DON'T WASH THEIR HANDS BEFORE THEY EAT!"

3 JESUS REPLIED, "AND WHY DO YOU BREAK THE COMMAND OF GOD FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR TRADITION?"

4 FOR GOD SAID, 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER' AND 'ANYONE WHO CURSES THEIR FATHER OR MOTHER IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH.'

5 BUT YOU SAY THAT IF ANYONE DECLARES THAT WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN USED TO HELP THEIR FATHER OR MOTHER IS 'DEVOTED TO GOD,' 6 THEY ARE NOT TO 'HONOR THEIR FATHER OR MOTHER' WITH IT. THUS YOU NULLIFY THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR TRADITION. 7 YOU HYPOCRITES! ISAIAH WAS RIGHT WHEN HE PROPHESIED ABOUT YOU:

8 "THESE PEOPLE HONOR ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEARTS ARE FAR FROM ME.

9 THEY WORSHIP ME IN VAIN; THEIR TEACHINGS ARE MERELY HUMAN RULES."

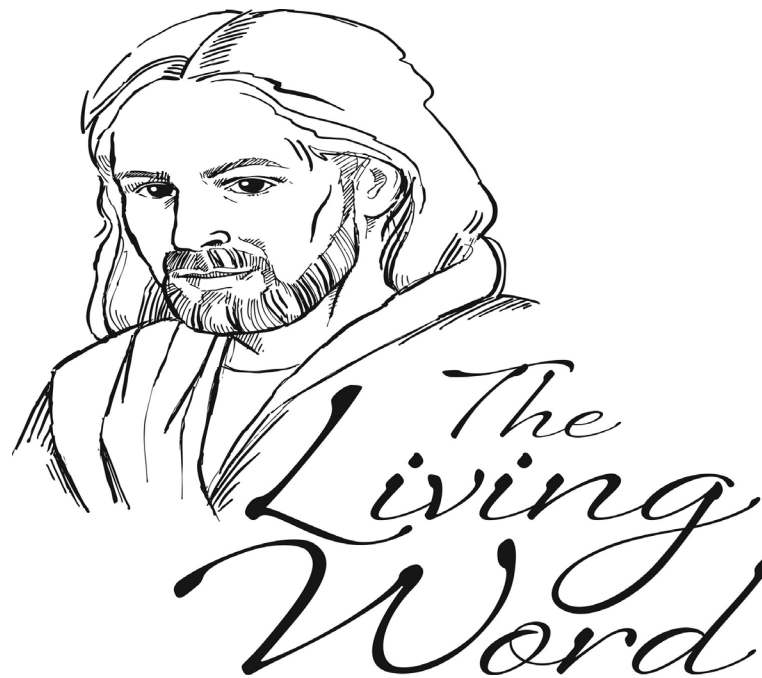
10 JESUS CALLED THE CROWD TO HIM AND SAID, "LISTEN AND UNDERSTAND. 11 WHAT GOES INTO SOMEONE'S MOUTH DOES NOT DEFILE THEM, BUT WHAT COMES OUT OF THEIR MOUTH, THAT IS WHAT DEFILES THEM."

12 THEN THE DISCIPLES CAME TO HIM AND ASKED, "DO YOU KNOW THAT THE PHARISEES WERE OFFENDED WHEN THEY HEARD THIS?"

13 HE REPLIED, "EVERY PLANT THAT MY HEAVENLY FATHER HAS NOT PLANTED WILL BE PULLED UP BY THE ROOTS. 14 LEAVE THEM; THEY ARE BLIND GUIDES. IF THE BLIND LEAD THE BLIND, BOTH WILL FALL INTO A PIT."

15 PETER SAID, "EXPLAIN THE PARABLE TO US."

16 "ARE YOU STILL SO DULL?" JESUS ASKED THEM. 17 "DON'T YOU SEE THAT WHATEVER ENTERS THE MOUTH GOES INTO THE STOMACH AND THEN OUT OF THE BODY? 18 BUT THE THINGS THAT COME OUT OF A PERSON'S MOUTH COME FROM THE HEART, AND THESE DEFILE THEM. 19



FOR OUT OF THE HEART COME EVIL THOUGHTS—MURDER, ADULTERY, SEXUAL IMMORALITY, THEFT, FALSE TESTIMONY, SLANDER. 20 THESE ARE WHAT DEFILE A PERSON; BUT EATING WITH UNWASHED HANDS DOES NOT DEFILE THEM."

#### THE FAITH OF A CANAANITE WOMAN

21 LEAVING THAT PLACE, JESUS WITHDREW TO THE REGION OF TYRE AND SIDON. 22 A CANAANITE WOMAN FROM THAT VICINITY CAME TO HIM, CRYING OUT, "LORD, SON OF DAVID, HAVE MERCY ON ME! MY DAUGHTER IS DEMON-POSSESSED AND SUFFERING TERRIBLY."

23 JESUS DID NOT ANSWER A WORD. SO HIS DISCIPLES CAME TO HIM AND URGED HIM, "SEND HER AWAY, FOR SHE KEEPS CRYING OUT AFTER US."

24 HE ANSWERED, "I WAS SENT ONLY TO THE LOST SHEEP OF ISRAEL."

25 THE WOMAN CAME AND KNELT BEFORE HIM. "LORD, HELP ME!" SHE SAID.

26 HE REPLIED, "IT IS NOT RIGHT TO TAKE THE CHILDREN'S BREAD AND TOSS IT TO THE DOGS."

27 "YES IT IS, LORD," SHE SAID. "EVEN THE DOGS EAT THE CRUMBS THAT FALL FROM THEIR MASTER'S TABLE."

28 THEN JESUS SAID TO HER, "WOMAN, YOU HAVE GREAT FAITH! YOUR REQUEST IS GRANTED." AND HER DAUGHTER WAS HEALED AT THAT MOMENT.

#### JESUS FEEDS THE FOUR THOUSAND

29 JESUS LEFT THERE AND WENT ALONG THE SEA OF GALILEE. THEN HE WENT UP ON A MOUNTAINSIDE AND SAT DOWN. 30 GREAT CROWDS CAME TO HIM, BRINGING THE LAME,

THE BLIND, THE CRIPPLED, THE MUTE AND MANY OTHERS, AND LAID THEM AT HIS FEET; AND HE HEALED THEM. 31 THE PEOPLE WERE AMAZED WHEN THEY SAW THE MUTE SPEAKING, THE CRIPPLED MADE WELL, THE LAME WALKING AND THE BLIND SEEING. AND THEY PRAISED THE GOD OF ISRAEL.

32 JESUS CALLED HIS DISCIPLES TO HIM AND SAID, "I HAVE COMPASSION FOR THESE PEOPLE; THEY HAVE ALREADY BEEN WITH ME THREE DAYS AND HAVE NOTHING TO EAT. I DO NOT WANT TO SEND THEM AWAY HUNGRY, OR THEY MAY COLLAPSE ON THE WAY."

33 HIS DISCIPLES ANSWERED, "WHERE COULD WE GET ENOUGH BREAD IN THIS REMOTE PLACE TO FEED SUCH A CROWD?"

34 "HOW MANY LOAVES DO YOU HAVE?" JESUS ASKED.

"SEVEN," THEY REPLIED, "AND A FEW SMALL FISH."

35 HE TOLD THE CROWD TO SIT DOWN ON THE GROUND. 36 THEN HE TOOK THE SEVEN LOAVES AND THE FISH, AND WHEN HE HAD GIVEN THANKS, HE BROKE THEM AND GAVE THEM TO THE DISCIPLES, AND THEY IN TURN TO THE PEOPLE. 37 THEY ALL ATE AND WERE SATISFIED. AFTERWARD THE DISCIPLES PICKED UP SEVEN BASKETFULS OF BROKEN PIECES THAT WERE LEFT OVER. 38 THE NUMBER OF THOSE WHO ATE WAS FOUR THOUSAND MEN, BESIDES WOMEN AND CHILDREN. 39 AFTER JESUS HAD SENT THE CROWD AWAY, HE GOT INTO THE BOAT AND WENT TO THE VICINITY OF MAGADAN.

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