

“Closer Walk” Bible Study

Mining Matthew Chapter 14

Purpose: To share lives around the Scripture and through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit make happy and unexpected discoveries that change our lives and bring us closer in our walk with Jesus.

Getting us started

1. What would be your “dream” birthday present?
2. After a busy day, how do you unwind?
3. If you fed five thousand people at a picnic, what would you serve?
4. Of all your adventures in life, which was the most daring?
5. Describe your first experience waterskiing, surfing or iceskating.

Getting us into Scripture

6. Why did Herod fear Jesus? John the Baptist?
7. Why did Herod behead John? What does this say about his character?
8. What does Herod seem to fear most: The fame of Jesus? The ghost of John? The reaction of his dinner guests? His wife?
9. Why does Jesus withdraw? How does he react to the interruption?
10. Describe how the disciples might have felt in verse 15. In verses 16-17? In verses 18-21?
11. What new power do the disciples discover in Jesus?
12. What is the lesson here?
13. Why do you think Jesus wanted to pray alone? What was one of Jesus' concerns about his popularity among the people (see John 6:15)?
14. How does public opinion and Jesus' response to it resemble that of the temptations in 4:3-10?
15. Meanwhile, what happens out on the lake to rock the disciples' boat? To stir up their fear? To encourage their faith?
16. What do Peter's actions reveal about his personality?
17. Why do you think Peter asks Jesus to call to him? When did Peter begin to sink? Why then and not earlier?
18. What do the disciples conclude about Jesus as a result of this experience?

Getting Scripture into us

19. In what areas of your life are your actions governed by fear of what others think? How could Jesus help you?
20. What insight about Jesus will you remember from this story?
21. How have you seen Jesus stretch your resources beyond what you could imagine?
22. Would you be more likely to stay in the boat or step out of it? Why?
23. What do you see in your own life that parallels Peter's attempt to walk on water?