

Lesson 10 Study Guide
For
The Gospel according to Matthew
A Torah of the Church
Fr. Lawrence Farley

Chapter 14. The Death of John the Baptist

Overview: After King Herod's death the Romans divided the kingdom into a tetrarchy, and one part went to his son called Herod the tetrarch. Herod had imagined that John had risen from the dead after his beheading and was acting in the person of Jesus, the continuation of Elijah's spirit. Herod was afraid of John as John had become all the more powerful. At the same time, John preferred to incur the King's anger rather than ignore the Lord's commandments. Virtue is undesirable for those who are immoral; integrity is a hardship for the corrupt; mercy is intolerable for the cruel. (Church Fathers: Theodore of Mopsuestia; Origen; Theodore of Heraclea; and Peter Chrysologus)

The head of John is brought on a platter. The pleasures of the body and worldly extravagance reach a point of where the girl brings the head to her mother. It is all shameful for Israel as she now surrenders the glory of the law to the pleasure and infidelity of the Herodian family, who were formerly Gentiles. Now the time of the law is over and buried with John. The disciples of Jesus announce to the Lord of the events as the law is now over and the Gospels take over. (Hilary of Poitiers)

1. Many said that the miracles done by Jesus were actually done by _____ returned.
2. T or F. John the Baptist felt that the Jewish law applied to all even Herod who had his brother's wife Herodias.
3. T or F. At this time Israel was theocracy.

The Feeding of the Five thousand

Overview: When Jesus heard of John's death he withdrew to a lonely place. He withdrew because he did not want his identity to be known at this point. Even at this point the disciples are not awakened but still reason as if they were with a man. Jesus looked upon to heaven to keep their eyes focused there. By the word of God coming from the law and the prophets, the multitude was satisfied. For he himself is the one who fills all things, the true blessing from above and from the Father. But, so we might learn that when we are at the table and preparing to break bread, we ought to bring them to God with hand upraised for blessing from above. He is the beginning and pattern and the way.

The same number of those eating proved to be the number of those who believed. As noted in the Book of Acts, out of the countless people of Israel five thousand men believed. (See: Acts 4:4) (Chrysostom; Hilary of Poitiers; and Cyril of Alexandria)

4. In blessing for food at our Orthodox house dinner tables we pray that Christ who fed the _____ with _____ and _____ will bless our foods too.
5. The feeding of the 5,000 charged up the people so much that they wanted to make Jesus their _____.

Jesus walks on Water

Overview: The miracle of walking on water was prophesied long before. He was training them by their fears and instructing them to be ready to endure. The fourth watch of the night has typological significance in relation to the four phases of the history of revelation: the law; the prophets; the incarnation and the return of the Lord. Or interpreted another way: Adam to Noah; Noah to Moses; Moses to the Savior, with the fourth watch marking the time when the Son of God was born in the flesh and suffered. (Hilary of Poitiers; Chrysostom; and Chromatius)

The believing people were now moved from the law and saved by faith. They offered to God those who were feeble and ill. Those offered just wanted to touch the hem of his garment to be made whole through faith. From the hem of the garment, the power of the Holy Spirit came forth from Jesus the Lord. (Hilary of Poitiers)

6. This all took place on or near the _____.
7. Peter's failing in the water was a matter of _____.
8. This miracle ended with the proclamation by all the apostles that Jesus was truly "_____ " for the first time!
9. So great was Jesus' power that all those who just _____ were in _____ were saved.
10. According to Matthew these miracles confirm _____

Chapter 15. Conflict with the Pharisees

Overview: The chief motive of the Pharisees was to keep their power. They wanted others to be afraid of them. Keeping food laws is not as important as guarding your speech. God is concerned with one's heart and keeping clean from evil. As we learned in the Catholic Epistle study of St. James (see and read Chapter 3 "Controlling What We Say") people are defiled not by food that enters their mouth but from perverse thought from their minds that can proceed from the heart. ("Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing." James 3:10). Erroneous teachings will be uprooted. (Origen and Chromatius)

1. In Isaiah 29 Christ denounces people who honor God with their _____ while their _____ is far from _____.
2. As said in James 1:26, we find the same lesson: "It is not what goes in _____ but what _____ that defiles the man."
3. Check the evil things that can come out of one's mouth below:
 ___murder ___adultery ___slander ___evil questioning ___fornication___ theft
 ___false witness
4. These true defilements are: Check ___Internal or ___ external to the heart.

