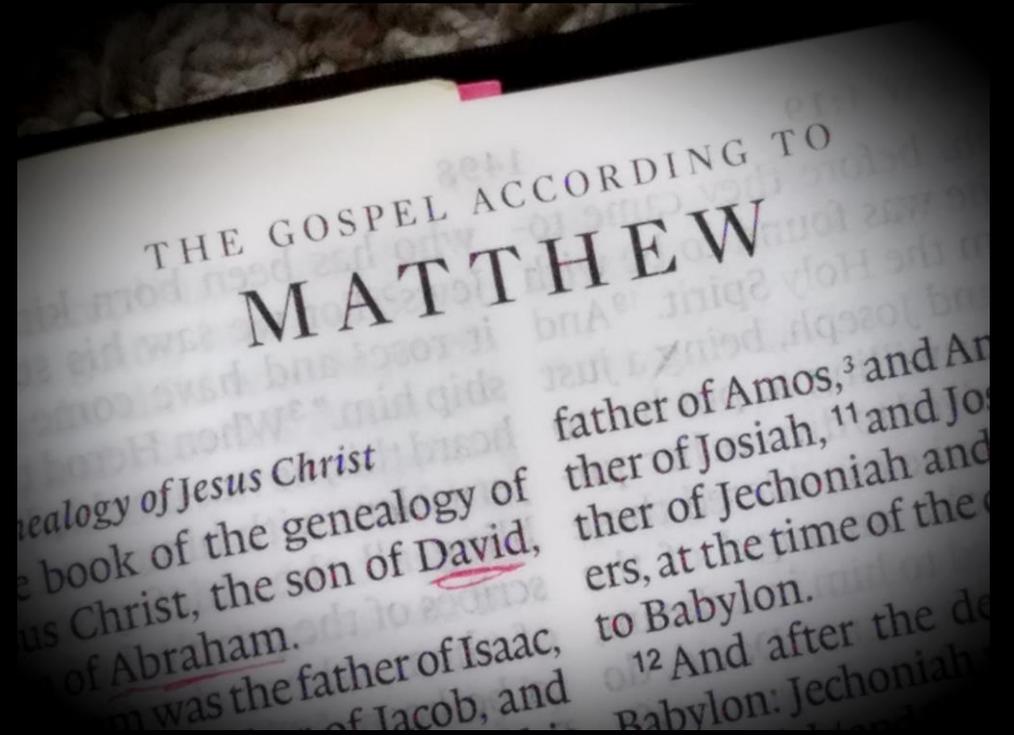


# Verse by Verse

## Matthew 14



# Matthew 14 Introduction

# Matthew 14 Introduction



- In Buddhism, desire is a foundational cause of all suffering.
- By desire, Buddhists refer to the craving of pleasure, material goods, and immortality.

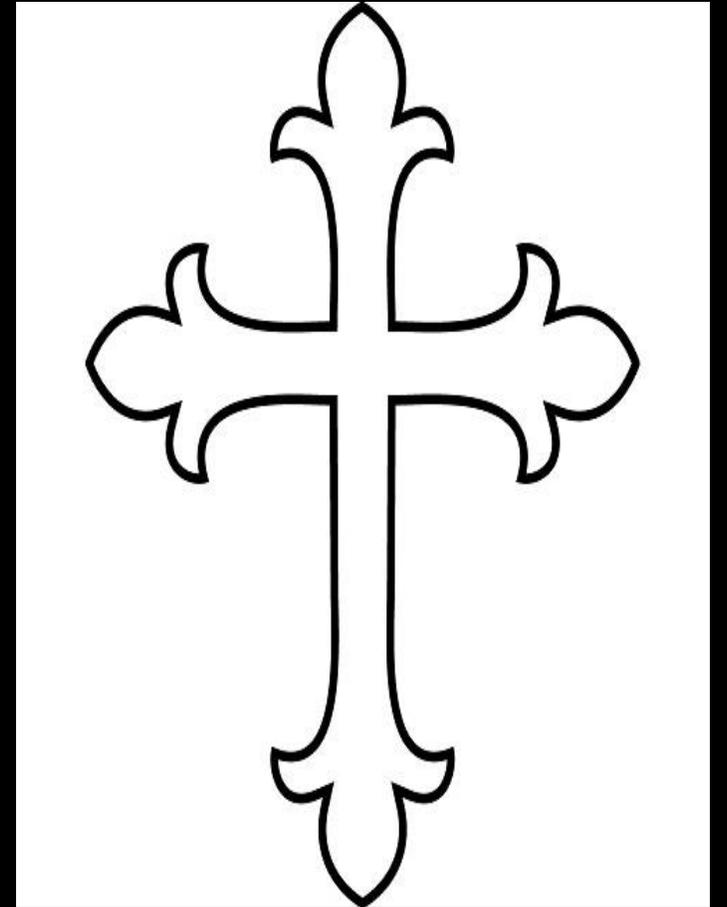
# Matthew 14 Introduction



- These are all wants, according to Buddhism, that can never be satisfied.
- Desiring them can only bring suffering.
- To oversimplify, if we learn not to desire, then all suffering will cease.

# Matthew 14 Introduction

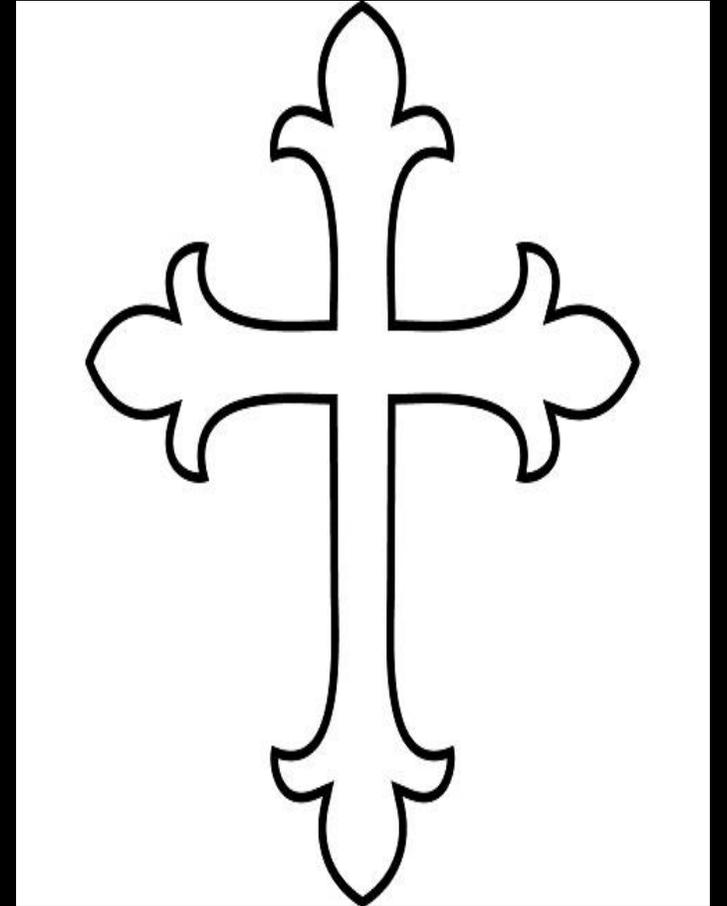
- The Bible allows for our desires but asks us to train them.
- Receiving a new nature from God allows new desires to grow.
- For example,



# Matthew 14 Introduction

- Psalm 19:7-10 (ESV)

<sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect,  
reviving the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure,  
making wise the simple;  
<sup>8</sup> the precepts of the LORD are right,  
rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is pure,  
enlightening the eyes;

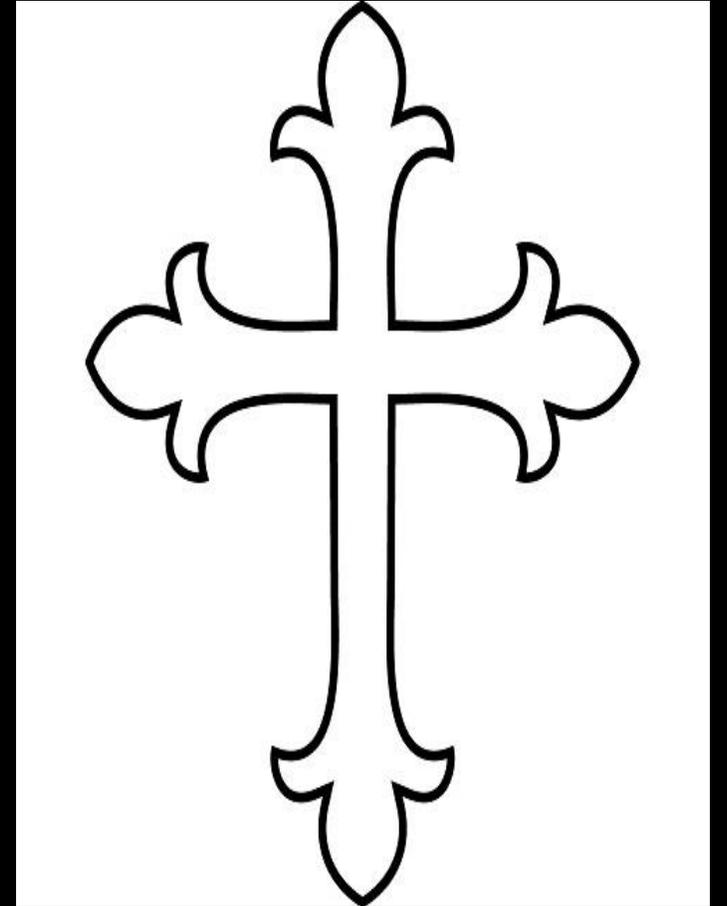


# Matthew 14 Introduction

- Psalm 19:7-10 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> the fear of the LORD is clean,  
enduring forever;  
the rules of the LORD are true,  
and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey  
and drippings of the honeycomb.



# Matthew 14 Introduction

- Our passage today will bring up several different types of desires and several types of satisfaction.
- Some are good, some bad and some neutral.

# Matthew 14 Key Verses

# Matthew 14 Key Verses

- Matthew 14:20-21 (ESV)

<sup>20</sup> And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. <sup>21</sup> And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

# Matthew 14 Key Verses

- Matthew 14:33 (ESV)

And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

# Matthew 14 Outline

1. Herod's Birthday 14:1-12
2. Feeding the 5000 14:13-21
3. Walking on Water 14:22-33
4. Healing the Sick 14:34-36

# 1. Herod's Birthday 14:1-12

# 1. Herod's Birthday 14:1-12

- 14:2 Herod thinks Jesus is really John the Baptist raised from the dead.
- This is the work of a guilty conscience interacting with some mixed-up, almost biblical beliefs.
- Herod had John killed and this is the story.

# 1. Herod's Birthday 14:1-12

- 14:3-4 Herod the tetrarch had an affair with his sister-in-law named Herodias. Yes, the names are confusing.
- They decided to divorce their spouses and get married to each another.
- This was wrong on a few levels, but we won't go into too many details.

# 1. Herod's Birthday 14:1-12

- 14:3-4 John the Baptist publicly spoke out against this.
- For his honesty and godly values he was put in prison.
- And then came Herod's birthday.

# 1. Herod's Birthday 14:1-12

- 14:6 Herod's niece/stepdaughter ("Salome," according to Josephus) danced for the guests at the party.
- This "pleased Herod," in a big way.

# 1. Herod's Birthday 14:1-12

- 14:6 There is nothing in the text that makes it certain this was some kind of erotic, sensual or shocking dance.
- That interpretation is, however, very common.
- It is based more on knowledge of the culture, the times and the Herod family.
- They were something like our own times, culture and major public figures.

# 1. Herod's Birthday 14:1-12

- 14:6 Herod doesn't deserve the benefit of the doubt, but if we give it to him, he was just happy to enjoy a nice show.
- A desire for sheer entertainment is not bad.
- It is also not very satisfying in the long run.
- We need the next show, the next thrill, the next distraction.

# 1. Herod's Birthday 14:1-12

- 14:7-12 Herod offers to give the girl “whatever she might ask” – up to half his kingdom according to Mark.
- Herodias coaches Salome.
- She want the Baptist's head.
- She gets it and takes it to her mother.
- Let that sink in.

# 1. Herod's Birthday 14:1-12

- This passage is full of misguided desires and satisfactions.
- The affair of Herod and Herodias.
- Their divorces and marriage to one another.
- Herodias's hatred for John and desire to see him dead.
- Herod's unwillingness to lose face in front of his guests.
- When Herodias gets her way, Herod's birthday becomes the day of John's death.

# 1. Herod's Birthday 14:1-12

- Remember Queen?

*I want it all, I want it all,  
I want it all and I want it now*

- They did not perform this song live until long after it was released, and then without Freddie Mercury who died of AIDS in the interim.



# 1. Herod's Birthday 14:1-12

- The truth is, we all have an inner Herod or Herodias.
- We want what we want. Period.
- We also want to look good in front of others.
- And we don't want anyone to criticize us or stand in our way.
- Sometimes getting what we want is not in God's plan, may be wrong, and may even mess with or hurt someone else.
- Some desires are best left unsatisfied.

## 2. Feeding the 5000 14:13-21

## 2. Feeding the 5000    14:13-21

- This miracle is reported in **all four Gospels**.
- People are hungry, Jesus feeds them, everyone is satisfied.
- On one level, this reminds us that God cares about our basic needs – and will meet them.

## 2. Feeding the 5000     14:13-21

- In **Matthew 6:11**, Jesus instructs us to pray, “Give us this day our daily bread.”
- But there is more, especially in John’s version of the story.

## 2. Feeding the 5000    14:13-21

- John 6:35-36, 40 (ESV)

<sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. <sup>36</sup> But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe ... <sup>40</sup> For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

## 2. Feeding the 5000    14:13-21

- We all have **very normal needs**.
- We want food, shelter, some kind of satisfying productive work, good friendships, and so on.
- In this world can get most of those most of the time.
- **But we want more.**

## 2. Feeding the 5000    14:13-21

- If we got to live forever and yet continued to experience unfulfilled longings, that would be, well, **unfulfilling**.
- If we are honest, we desire to be **satisfied**, satisfied **in all the right ways**, and we want the satisfaction **to never end**.
- **We want more than this world can guarantee.**

## 2. Feeding the 5000

14:13-21

*If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.*

– C. S. Lewis (1898 – 1963),  
in *Mere Christianity*



## 2. Feeding the 5000      14:13-21

- We want a right relationship with God and with others in a perfectly just society.
- We want all our basic needs always met.
- We want perfect peace.
- And we want all of these things forever.
- We want things that this world cannot give us, but Jesus can.

## 2. Feeding the 5000      14:13-21

- Matthew 5:6 (ESV)

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

### 3. Walking on Water 14:22-33

### 3. Walking on Water 14:22-33

- 14:22-23 Jesus made sure he got alone to pray.
- If we desire that time with God, it will be possible, but it will not always be easy. Compare 14:13-14 with 22-23.
- Jesus had to do it at the end of the day, into the night and after getting rid of everyone else around him.
- I pray we all grow in our desire for that time alone with God.

### 3. Walking on Water 14:22-33

- 14:24-27 the fourth watch of the night = 3 to 6 AM
- There is some serious wind kicking up, but the thing that scares the disciples most is seeing Jesus.
- So Jesus says, “Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid.”

### 3. Walking on Water 14:22-33

1. Jesus made the disciples go out onto the lake. (v.22)
2. The thing they fear most is unreasonable. They think they are seeing a ghost. (v.26)
3. If we are doing whatever Christ has made us do – or made us to do – we will have to conquer our fears.
4. Some of our fears are reasonable, others are unreasonable.
5. We will have to conquer both.

### 3. Walking on Water 14:22-33

- 14:28-33 Peter was more afraid “when he saw the wind.”
- This was while he was walking on water at night on a lake that was well over 100’ deep. (14:29-30)
- Another unreasonable fear?
- Jason Barnaby calls these WhatIfAbouts.
- Ask him.

### 3. Walking on Water 14:22-33

- 14:28-33 On the other hand, Peter wanted to come to Jesus on the water.
- On the water or anywhere else, this is the best possible desire we can have.
- Jesus may even be ready to work miracles for us to make it happen – but again, *if* that is what we really want.

### 3. Walking on Water 14:22-33

*God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him.*

– John Piper,  
Desiring God



### 3. Walking on Water 14:22-33

- 14:28-33 “Lord save me.” Another wonderful prayer.
- “And those in the boat worshiped him.”
- Always take note of when Christ receives worship.
- He deserves it.

## 4. Healing the Sick 14:34-36

## 4. Healing the Sick 14:34-36

- Once again Jesus is out there answering prayers, healing and helping people in just the way that they need.
- Desires satisfied.

# Matthew 14    What We Just Read

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# Matthew 14    Some Key Points

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2. Some desires are good, some bad and some neutral.
3. We all have an inner Herod or Herodias, so some desires are best left unsatisfied.
4. If we desire that time with God, it will be possible, but it will not always be easy.
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# Matthew 14    Some Key Points

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# Matthew 14    A Prayer

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- Heavenly Father,
- I understand that some of my desires are good, some of them are bad and some of them are neutral.
- As for the wrong desires, please help me to be content without ever having those desires satisfied.
- As for the neutral desires, the simple and basic needs that I have, please help me to trust you for their fulfillment.

# Matthew 14    A Prayer

- Beyond that, help me to desire you most of all.
- Help me to guard and cherish my time with you.
- Help me to hunger and thirst for righteousness.
- Help me to long to be more like you, to want what you want and to work toward your desires and your will for me.
- Make yourself my ultimate source of satisfaction.
- In Christ's name,
- Amen

# Matthew 14    References

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