

Matthew's Gospel

Chapter 14

Unbelief vs. Wrong Belief

Matthew 13:58 And He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief.

Matthew 14:1-2 At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the news about Jesus, and said to his servants, "This is John the Immerser; he has risen from the dead; and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him."

The Common Cause? Ego!

As the ego grows, the seedlings of emotional instability take root because any distortion of our true self produces a misrepresentation of the world; and if our grasp of reality is flawed, then our adjustment to life will suffer...

Our ego colors the world so that we are not tarnished...

[But], denying reality does not come without a price. Exhausted and on edge, our ego edits our world to ensure that we leave in nothing that will hurt us or reveal us.

We hide behind a carefully crafted façade, and the identity that we build to shield ourselves soon becomes a shell that encases us.

☞ Dovid Lieberman (1953 -)

If you observe people carefully you will see that someone who loves the approval of others will, as it were, sell himself as a slave to those who flatter him. He will not even realize what is happening to him, however obvious it may be to an outside observer.

☞ R' Simcha Zissel Ziv (1824–1898)

Digestive Enzymes for Spiritual Nourishment

Deuteronomy 8:3 And He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of Adonai.

Serving a Spiritual Meal:



1. **Don't underestimate your ingredients** (17)
2. **They must pass through the hands of Yeshua** (18-19)
3. **Obedience precedes nourishment** (19)
4. **It must have Yeshua's blessing** (19)
5. **There must be brokenness** (19)
6. **We give what Yeshua gives us** (19)
7. **There is satisfaction** (20)
8. **There is abundance** (20)
9. **Logic is irrelevant** (21)
10. **Yeshua lingers after we leave** (22)

6-Minute Assignment:

- 1. Read Matthew 14:22-33 & John 21:1-14**
- 2. Group #1 – Find as many similarities between these two stories as you can.**
- 3. Group #2 – Find as many differences between these two stories as you can.**

Similarities:

- ✓ Disciples in a boat
- ✓ Yeshua NOT in a boat
- ✓ Peter in the water...
- ✓ ...going toward Yeshua
- ✓ Yeshua initiates conversation
- ✓ Peter first to approach Yeshua
- ✓ Yeshua alone
- ✓ Yeshua asks a question
- ✓ Includes story of feeding people...
- ✓ ...miraculously (?)
- ✓ (Bread & Fish)

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

Differences:

- ✓ Evening vs. morning
- ✓ Danger vs. calm
- ✓ Yeshua on water vs. on land
- ✓ Far from land vs. near land
- ✓ Yeshua approaches vs. disciples approaching
- ✓ Fear vs. Joy
- ✓ Yeshua pulls Peter out of the water vs. Disciples pulling fish out of the water
- ✓ Yeshua identifies Himself vs. John identifying Yeshua
- ✓ Feeding 5,000 vs. feeding 11
- ✓ Dinner vs. breakfast
- ✓ Going vs. returning
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

Q: What is the key?

A: The Questions!

Q#1: “Oh you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

Q#2: “Peter, do you love me?” (3x)

FAITH = Yeshua will take care of His sheep

LOVE = I will take care of His sheep

1 Corinthians 13:2 And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all **faith**, so as to remove mountains, but do not have **love**, I am nothing.

Galatians 5:6 For in Messiah Yeshua neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but **faith** working through **love**.

Ephesians 1:15 For this reason I too, having heard of the **faith** in the Master Yeshua which exists among you, and your **love** for all the saints,

Ephesians 6:23 Peace be to the brethren, and **love** with **faith**, from God the Father and the Master Yeshua the Messiah.

One last similarity: Peter is rescued

Story #1: Rescued from drowning in water

Story #2: Rescued from drowning in shame, guilt and regret