

# Bible Study 2023-2024

## Class #5

10/10/23

# Matthew 14 (Cont)

- **Matthew 14:22-23** *“Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side,....When evening came, he was there alone.”*
  - Father said the spot where Jesus went to pray is known today but not visited by most pilgrims
  - There is a small cave just above the site of the multiplication of the loaves (He and his tour visited this sight)
  - Read from Pope Benedict XVI book

# Matthew 14 (Cont)

- **Matthew 14:24-28** *“but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land,...bid me to come to you upon the water.”*
  - Some see Peter’s sinking into the water as a sign of his lack of faith
  - Father pointed out that the rest of the disciples stayed in the boat while Peter stepped out on the water in faith
  - When he became afraid and started to sink, Jesus saved him and asked him why he doubted

# Matthew 14 (Cont)

- Here is another major difference between Matthew (who presents this story) and Mark who completely omits any reference to Peter \*
- As we know, Mark was relating (in his gospel) the teaching of Peter who was preaching in Rome
- Father suggested that Peter did not talk about this incident as it would have been difficult to answer all the questions from listeners as to what it was like to walk on water
- This was an act of humility

# Matthew 14 (Cont)

- **Matthew 14:34-36** *“And when they had crossed over they came to the land of Gennesaret....and as many as touched it were made well.”*
  - Jesus and the disciples left the place of the feeding of the 5000 by boat, and landed a little further down the coast at **Gennesaret**
  - Archeologist have found the remnants of a fishing boat that may have belonged to Peter in that location

# Matthew 14 (Cont)

- 1<sup>st</sup> century coins were found in this boat
- Matthew said that those people who touched the fringe of Jesus' garment were healed (think of the story of the woman with a 12 year hemorrhage)
- This is another reference for the power of relics
- We will now turn to Matthew 15

# Synoptics 23 – 24

- Matthew 15

# Matthew 15

- **Matthew 15:1-9** *“Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said,...teaching as doctrines the precepts of men”*
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> century Jews had a custom that a person could identify the things they wished would be given to others, when they died, in their wills (This custom remains very common today)
  - In some instances, they could promise a thing (like a piece of property) to the temple upon their death, and they could still live on it as a tenant



# Matthew 15 (Cont)

- Thus, they could not use that gift to take care of their needy parents since the property no longer belonged to them, and it would amount to stealing from God
- Jesus pointed out that the Law (not tradition) required some one to honor (take care of) their parents
- He pointed out that the Pharisees where placing tradition above of the Law (that was crazy)
- Jesus used the same argument when he asked the Pharisees what the Law said about washing hands

# Matthew 15 (Cont)

- The Law said that if one touched anything “unclean,” one had to wash his hands and be considered unclean until sunset (that means until the next day)
- Thus, the Pharisees said that one must always wash his hands
- Father pointed out this had nothing to do with concern for bacteria or microbes!
- This was all about ritual uncleanness (like touching a dead animal)
- But, the Pharisees would wash their hands constantly, in order to ensure that they were ritually clean

# Matthew 15 (Cont)

- **Matthew 15:10-20** *“And he called the people to him and said to them,...but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man”*
  - Peter asked Jesus what they were talking about
  - Father pointed out that it was difficult for the disciples to understand all the things Jesus was speaking about
  - Thus, Jesus explained to them that it was not what goes into the mouth that defiled a man, but he said to others (what came out of his mouth) that defiled him
  - In the very next passage, Jesus clarifies this issue