

# *The Pastor's Bible Study*

## An interactive study of the Gospel of Matthew<sup>1</sup>

### Week 15 ~ Exploring Chapter 14:1 – 15:20

#### Personal Study Time:

---

(Use the following suggestions in your personal Bible study time this week to prepare for our class discussion next Saturday.)

- Start a new section in your Matthew notebook and label it chapter 14:1 to 15:20
- Read 14:1 to 16:20 through one time, listing the evidence you can find of the “withdrawal theme”.
  - Look up on the maps in your bible the places to which Jesus travels. This will help you trace that theme.
- Re-read 14:1 to 15:20 twice. Then turn to the following exercises.
  - What is the relationship between the withdrawing in 14:13 and the experience of John in 14:1-12?
- In Matthew, Mark, and John, the feeding of the five thousand is followed by the story of Jesus walking on the water. Find these parallel passages through the study aids in your Bible (or through the use of a concordance), and read them carefully. Compare and contrast all three Gospels on the water-walking experience.
  - How are they alike? How do they differ? In particular, look for hints through comparative study as to why Jesus "made" the disciples sail off without Him while He dismissed the crowd (14:22).
  - What did the feeding of the five thousand have to do with the mass movement that Jesus had to dispel? (Note that you will need more than one Gospel account to answer this last question.)
- Re-read Matthew 15:1-20. Here Jesus talks to three distinct audiences. List these three groups and the inclusive passages that have to do with each. Then summarize in three paragraphs the message of Jesus to each audience. Finally, list the ways in which the three conversations reinforce one another.

#### **Application Questions**

- How can one know when to withdraw and when to move forward in Christian living? What can you learn from Christ about the times and seasons for confrontation and peaceful coexistence?
- The disciples were carried away with the crowd after the feeding of the five thousand because they had not listened carefully to what Jesus was trying to tell them. How carefully do you listen to what you read? What evidence do you have that you are or are not reading your prejudices and desires into His words? Can you list some of the ways that all of us can get around that all-to-human danger?

---

<sup>1</sup> Quoted and/or adapted from George R. Knight, *Matthew: The Gospel of the Kingdom*, The Abundant Life Bible Amplifier (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press Pub. Association, 1994).