

# Matthew Survey — Section Two

## Historical Record #3

Matthew 13:53 -- 15:39 | Lessons 36 -- 40

### Topical Study Overview

---

## About This Section

With the seven mysteries of the kingdom fully disclosed in Matthew 13, the Holy Ghost now records two chapters of historical events that function as rejection preparations. Two main parties -- Herod the Gentile ruler and the Pharisees and scribes from Jerusalem -- are each triggered into determined opposition against the Lord. Their eventual joining of forces fulfills the twofold witness of Psalm 2. Interspersed throughout are the Lord's deliberate acts of provision and power for the disciples' future benefit: miraculous feedings, authority over the sea, and encounters that foreshadow the remnant's experience in the fifth installment.



[www.enjoythebible.org](http://www.enjoythebible.org)

## Topics at a Glance

Topic	Core Content
Part 1	The Seventh Parable and the Apostles as Scribes of the Kingdom
Part 2	Rejection at Nazareth -- The Nation's Response Confirmed
Part 3	Introduction to Matt 14-15 -- The Shape of Rejection Preparations
Part 4	Psalm 2 and the Two Main Parties in the Rejection of Christ
Part 5	Herod and the Murder of John -- The Signal to Wind Down
Part 6	Feeding of the Five Thousand -- Provision Foretaste for the Remnant
Part 7	Walking on Water -- Authority Over Catastrophic Phenomena
Part 8	Healing at Gennesaret -- Signs of the Kingdom Continue
Part 9	Pharisees from Jerusalem -- Tradition of Elders vs. Commandment of God
Part 10	The Woman of Canaan -- Great Faith and Program Understanding
Part 11	Feeding of the Four Thousand -- Provision Repeated and Confirmed

## Topic Summaries

P1

### The Seventh Parable and the Apostles as Scribes of the Kingdom *Matt 13:47-52 | Lessons 36*

- The seventh parable -- the Net -- discloses that at the end of the age the angels will immediately judge those among the nations who encountered the gospel of the kingdom; wicked cast into the furnace of fire, just gathered into vessels.
  - This is the mystery aspect: not that judgment comes, but that it comes immediately at the establishment of the kingdom rather than waiting for the great white throne.
- All seven parables together disclose formerly undisclosed aspects of the climactic stage: the remnant within the nations, Satan's policy of evil, the wheat and tares, the kingdom's growth, and the immediate judgment of the nations.
- The Lord likens the apostles to a householder bringing forth out of his treasures things new and old -- they are scribes instructed in the kingdom of heaven who will record the remaining scriptures for Israel's program.
  - The Spirit of truth (John 14-16) will guide them into all truth, bring all things to their remembrance, and show them things to come -- equipping them to amplify the mysteries in Hebrews through Revelation.
- The three single-chapter doctrinal segments in section two (Matt 10, 13, 16) are each essential installments of apostolic education in preparation for the climactic stage and the fifth installment.

P2

### Rejection at Nazareth -- The Nation's Response Confirmed

*Matt 13:53-58 | Lesson 36*

- After delivering the seven parables the Lord returns to his own country and teaches in the synagogue; the people are astonished at his wisdom and mighty works but are immediately offended.
- Instead of searching the scriptures to answer 'Whence hath this man this wisdom?' the people operate on Pharisaical counter doctrine: 'Is not this the carpenter's son?'
  - The scriptures are present in the synagogue; the testimony of the Father regarding his Son is accessible -- but the authority that holds sway is the tradition of the Pharisees, not the written word.
- The Lord responds: 'A prophet is not without honor, save in his own country, and in his own house' -- this local scene is a microcosm of the nation's overall response.
- He did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief -- the negative response of the nation, now seeded by counter doctrine from Israel's leadership, is the prevailing issue confirmed.
  - The fulfillment of the second half of Isaiah 53:4 -- 'yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted' -- is now visibly underway.

P3

## Introduction to Matt 14-15 -- The Shape of Rejection

**Preparations** *Matt 14:1 -- 15:39 | Lessons 36-37*

- The cadence of section two (Matt 8-16:20) is two chapters of historical record followed by one chapter of apostolic doctrine, repeated three times; chapters 14 and 15 are the third and final pair of historical record chapters.
- These two chapters are not merely continuation of ministry events; they record specific rejection preparations -- historical events that position the two main parties of Psalm 2 to produce the eventual rejection of Christ.
  - The Lord himself is the only one who recognizes them as rejection preparations at the time they occur; the disciples will understand it only later, with the Spirit of truth guiding them.
- Two distinct sets of edification events are also interwoven with the rejection preparations: miraculous provisions and demonstrations of authority designed to prepare the disciples for the fifth installment.
- From this point on the Lord shifts his pattern: entering cities becomes the exception; desert places, wilderness areas, and the coasts of cities become the norm -- foreshadowing the remnant's situation in the fifth installment.

P4

## Psalm 2 and the Two Main Parties in the Rejection of Christ

*Psalm 2:1-3; Acts 4:23-28 | Lesson 37*

- Psalm 2:1-3 prophesies that two parties will be involved in the rejection of the Christ: the heathen (Gentile authority) and the people (Israel's rulers) -- 'the kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord, and against his anointed.'
- Peter and the apostles, looking back from Acts 4, recognize this fulfillment explicitly: 'of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, both Herod and Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together.'
  - Matthew chapters 14 and 15 each record the triggering event for one of these two parties -- chapter 14 for Herod the Gentile authority, chapter 15 for the Pharisees and scribes from Jerusalem.
- The two parties operate independently at first and are even natural enemies, but they will join forces -- odd bedfellows -- as the rejection proceedings advance through sections three and four of Matthew's gospel.
- The broader scope of Psalm 2 covers the entire climactic stage: from the rejection (vv. 1-3) through the extension of mercy in Acts, the day of the Lord's wrath (v. 5), to the establishment of the kingdom (vv. 6-12).

P5

## Herod and the Murder of John -- The Signal to Wind Down *Matt 14:1-13 | Lessons 37-38*

- Herod hears of the fame of Jesus and fears this is John the Baptist risen from the dead -- because he has just had John beheaded at the request of Herodias' daughter, prompted by John's reproving him for taking his brother Phillip's wife.
  - John had been reproving Herod for all the evils he had done (Luke 3:18-20); the imprisonment of John was the original trigger, and now the murder of John is the decisive signal.
- Just as the Lord recognized John's imprisonment as the signal to commence his public ministry (Matt 4:12), he now recognizes John's murder as the signal

that the rejection proceedings of Psalm 2 are formally underway.

- Verse 13: 'When Jesus heard of it, he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart' -- not merely grief, but the deliberate response of one who knows the two parties of Psalm 2 are now in motion.
  - Mark 8:15 records the Lord later warning: 'Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod' -- lumping both parties together as the forces now at work.
- Herod's involvement fulfills the 'kings of the earth' element of Psalm 2; the Lord knows the public ministry must now begin to wind down and that the focal point of his activity must shift to edifying the disciples.

P6

## Feeding of the Five Thousand -- Provision Foretaste for the Remnant *Matt 14:13-21 | Lesson 38*

- Out in the desert place, the multitude follows from the cities; the Lord heals the sick and then, at evening, provides five loaves and two fish to feed more than five thousand men besides women and children.
- This is not one of the two hallmark signs of the kingdom (casting out unclean spirits; healing all manner of sickness); it is a sign specifically for the disciples' edification in view of the coming rejection.
  - 'They need not depart; give ye them to eat' -- the Lord knows the disciples do not yet comprehend what he is doing; the full significance will click when the Holy Ghost reminds them of it in the fifth installment.
- The Sermon on the Mount taught them to pray 'give us this day our daily bread'; this miracle is a living enactment of that provision for the time when they will be in desert places with no means of acquiring food.
  - Isaiah 33:16, 48:20-21, 49:8-10, 65:11-14 all describe miraculous physical provision for the remnant in wilderness/desert hiding during the fifth installment -- this feeding is a foretaste of that reality.
- Twelve baskets of fragments remain -- a surplus of provision; the Lord demonstrates that when God provides in the wilderness, it exceeds the need and leaves nothing wanting.

P7

## Walking on Water -- Authority Over Catastrophic Phenomena

*Matt 14:22-33 | Lessons 38-39*

- The Lord sends the disciples across the sea by ship while he goes up into the mountain alone to pray; in the fourth watch of the night, with the ship tossed by the wind, he walks to them on the sea.
- This is a deliberate repetition of the storm event in Matthew 8 -- the Lord again puts the disciples in a tempestuous situation to develop their understanding of who he is and what his authority means.
  - Back in Matthew 8 they were reproved for little faith; here Peter attempts to walk on the water and is reproved again: 'O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?' -- progress is still incomplete.
- The significance: during the fifth installment, catastrophic physical and geological events will be unprecedented (Luke 21:20-26). The disciples must know that the Christ has sovereign authority over the created order, including the elements of Satan's policy of evil.
  - Psalm 89 and the Rock Psalms establish that the Lord stills the sea -- this power

is germane to the time when the Deliverer and Avenger operates during the day of the Lord's wrath.

- Those in the ship worshipped him saying 'Of a truth thou art the Son of God' -- the key affirmation the disciples needed to be building upon as the rejection proceedings intensify.

P8

### Healing at Gennesaret -- Signs of the Kingdom Continue *Matt 14:34-36 | Lesson 39*

- After crossing the sea the disciples come into the land of Gennesaret; the men of that place recognize the Lord and send out through the whole country round about, bringing all the diseased to him.
- The signs of the kingdom continue even though the rejection proceedings are now underway; the Lord is not yet in the cities but in the country -- and people come out to him from the surrounding area.
  - The pattern is now established: the Lord in wilderness, country, and coastal areas; the diseased and the people coming out from cities and villages to where he is -- foreshadowing remnant ministry in the fifth installment.
- All who touched even the hem of his garment were made perfectly whole -- the power of the hallmark signs continues unabated; the negative response of the leadership does not diminish the reality or the offer of the kingdom.

P9

### Pharisees from Jerusalem -- Tradition of Elders vs. Commandment of God *Matt 15:1-20 | Lessons 39-40*

- 'Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem' -- the head honcho's have arrived from the headquarters of Israel's vain religious system; they are on the offensive, not merely reacting.
  - Local Pharisees and scribes have been doing damage control for months; now the leadership in Jerusalem has determined to send out the big guns to entangle him in his words and find legal grounds to eliminate him.
- Their opening challenge: 'Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they wash not their hands when they eat bread.' -- their pet doctrine, the tradition of the elders, is elevated above God's written word.
- The Lord exposes the Corban tradition as a case where their tradition literally makes the commandment of God of none effect: they allow a man to declare his property 'given to God' and thus withhold it from aging parents -- directly violating 'Honour thy father and mother.'

#### Isaiah 29:13 and the Hatred of God the Father Exposed

- The Lord quotes Isaiah 29:13: 'THIS PEOPLE DRAWETH NIGH UNTO ME WITH THEIR MOUTH... BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR FROM ME. BUT IN VAIN THEY DO WORSHIP ME, TEACHING FOR DOCTRINES THE COMMANDMENTS OF MEN.' -- He declares this is fulfilled in them.
  - As the Lord explained to his disciples in John 15:18-25: they hated the Father and now they hate the Son also -- the cloak of religious formalism has been stripped away and their enmity toward God the Father is exposed.
- The disciples report: 'Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying?' -- this offense is the seed that germinates into murderous hatred; from this point the Pharisees from Jerusalem are bent on ridding themselves of Christ.

- Proverbs 30:11-17 prophesied this generation's characteristics: lofty eyes, teeth as swords, jaw teeth as knives to devour the poor -- that devouring is now directed against the Lord himself beginning here in Matthew 15.

P10

## The Woman of Canaan -- Great Faith and Program Understanding *Matt 15:21-28 | Lesson 40*

- The Lord departs to the coasts of Tyre and Sidon -- not into Gentile cities but to the border area; a woman of Canaan (Syrophenician) comes out crying 'Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.'
- The Lord's response 'I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel' makes Israel's program unambiguous; a dispensation of Gentile grace is not in effect -- this passage is properly used to establish right division.
- The deeper significance for the disciples: this Gentile woman demonstrates great faith that stands in stark contrast to their own 'little faith' (Matt 14) and 'yet no understanding' (Matt 15:17).
  - Her great faith rests on two components: full understanding of the character and authority of God himself, and correct understanding of where she stood in the current program -- she knew the children's table was set and she was a dog that could receive the crumbs.
- 'O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt.' Her daughter was made whole immediately -- a rebuke to the twelve who had been educated by the Lord far more than this Gentile woman and still lacked the faith she displayed.
  - Her faith also anticipates the future blessing of Gentiles through Israel's program once the kingdom is established -- crumbs from the table become the foretaste of a full feast.

P11

## Feeding of the Four Thousand -- Provision Repeated and Confirmed *Matt 15:29-39 | Lesson 40*

- Following the encounter with the woman of Canaan, the Lord continues in wilderness areas; great multitudes come to him bringing the lame, blind, deaf, and many others -- he heals them all and the people glorify the God of Israel.
- After three days with the multitude in the wilderness and no food, the Lord has compassion and feeds four thousand men besides women and children with seven loaves and a few small fish; seven baskets of fragments remain.
  - This is a deliberate second witness to the miraculous provision theme -- the doctrinal significance the disciples failed to grasp the first time (Matt 14) is reinforced here so that in the fifth installment, when the Spirit of truth brings it to their remembrance, there can be no doubt.
- Together, the feeding of the five thousand and the feeding of the four thousand establish an unshakeable assurance that 'give us this day our daily bread' will be answered in desert places during the time of greatest need.
- With the conclusion of chapter 15, the Holy Ghost has fully recorded the rejection preparations: Herod's involvement triggered, the Pharisees and scribes from Jerusalem set on course to murder the Lord, and the disciples equipped with foretastes of fifth-installment provision and Christ's authority over creation.

- The two chapters stand in fulfillment of what was foreshadowed in Isaiah 53:4 from the beginning of section two: 'yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted' -- the full nation has now come to that estimation.

---

## Key Doctrinal Distinctions

### Rejection Preparations vs. the Rejection Itself

Matthew 14-15 record preparatory events -- not the rejection of Christ -- that position the two main parties of Psalm 2 for their eventual cooperative act. The Lord himself recognizes them as rejection preparations; the disciples do not understand this until later. The actual rejection is recorded in section four (Matt 24 to end).

### Two-Component Great Faith

Keith teaches that great faith has two necessary components: (1) a deep understanding and appreciation for God himself -- his character, power, and nature -- and (2) a correct understanding of the program in effect and one's position within it. The centurion (Matt 8) and the woman of Canaan (Matt 15) both exemplify this; the disciples are repeatedly reproved for lacking it.

### Miraculous Provision as Prophetic Foretaste

The two miraculous feedings are not merely demonstrations of the Lord's power; they are specifically designed foretastes for the disciples and the remnant of the literal miraculous provision God will make during the fifth installment when they are driven into wilderness areas and have no means of acquiring food. The Sermon on the Mount's petition 'give us this day our daily bread' is taught to be employed literally at that time.

### The Tradition of the Elders as Manifestation of Hating God the Father

Keith consistently teaches that a person's attitude toward the written word of God is the true testimony of their love or hatred for God. The tradition of the elders elevated human commandments above God's written word -- not as an error in interpretation but as the expression of a heart that is far from God. The Lord's exposure of this in Matt 15 using Isaiah 29:13 strips the cloak of religious formalism from Israel's leadership and makes their hatred of the Father manifest.

## Key Scripture References

<b>Psalm 2:1-3</b>	Kings and rulers gathered together against the Lord and his anointed -- fulfilled in Herod, Pilate, and Israel's leaders
<b>Isaiah 53:4</b>	He took infirmities and bare sicknesses; yet they esteemed him stricken -- both halves fulfilled in section two
<b>Isaiah 29:13</b>	Quoted in Matt 15:8-9: worship with lips, heart far from God; teaching commandments of men for doctrines
<b>Matt 14:6-11</b>	Herod's birthday feast; Herodias' daughter asks for John's head; murder of John the Baptist
<b>Matt 14:13</b>	When Jesus heard of it, he departed by ship to a desert place -- signal recognized; winding down begins
<b>Matt 14:25-33</b>	Walking on water; Peter's little faith; disciples worship: 'Of a truth thou art the Son of God'
<b>Matt 15:1-9</b>	Pharisees and scribes from Jerusalem challenge tradition vs. commandment; Corban example; Isaiah 29:13 quoted
<b>Matt 15:22-28</b>	Woman of Canaan: great faith in contrast to disciples' little faith; daughter made whole
<b>Acts 4:25-28</b>	Peter and John recognize Psalm 2 fulfilled: Herod, Pilate, Gentiles and Israel gathered against Jesus
<b>Mark 8:15</b>	Beware the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod -- both parties now identified as the opposition

---

For further study visit [www.enjoythebible.org](http://www.enjoythebible.org)