

MATTHEW 14

THE DEATH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST (14:1-12)

St. Peter Chrysologus on why St. John the Baptist was imprisoned by Herod:

Virtue is undesirable to those who are immoral; holiness is abhorrent to those who are impious; chastity is an enemy to those who are impure; integrity is a hardship for those who are corrupt; frugality runs counter to those who are self-indulgent; mercy is intolerable to those who are cruel, as is loving kindness to those who are pitiless and justice to those who are unjust...This is where John runs into trouble. He who admonishes those who are evil gives offense. He who repudiates wrongdoers runs into trouble.

CHRIST FEEDS THE FIVE THOUSAND (14:13-21)

St. Hilary of Poitiers on the apostles satisfying the multitude:

The loaves were given to the apostles, for through them the gifts of divine grace were to be administered...Thus, by the word of God coming from the teaching of the law and the prophets, the multitude was satisfied; and an abundance of divine power, reserved for the Gentiles from the ministry of the eternal food, was left over for the twelve apostles.

CHRIST WALKS ON WATER (14:22-33)

Blessed Theophylact on having no fear:

He did not appear immediately to them to calm the storm, but at the fourth watch, teaching us not to ask for a swift solution to our misfortunes but to endure them bravely...He first strengthens their resolve by saying: It is I Who can do all things; take courage.

CHRIST HEALS PEOPLE IN GENNESARET (14:34-36)

St. Hilary of Poitiers on touching the fringe of Christ's garment:

These offered persons wanted to touch the hem of His garment to be made whole through faith. As from the hem of the entire garment, the whole power of the Holy Spirit came forth from our Lord Jesus Christ. This power was given to the apostles, who were also going out as it were from the same body, and it afforded healing to those who wished to touch the garment.

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Quote Sources: Manlio Simonetti, editor. *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: Matthew 1a and 1b* (IVP)

Blessed Theophylact. *The Explanation by Blessed Theophylact of the Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew* (Chrysostom Press)

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