

# Together with Jesus

## Week 7 – Matthew 13 and 14 – Jesus Rejected by Israel

Matthew 13:1-23

### Jesus Speaks in Parables

Jesus begins speaking in what would become a signature rhetorical device for Him, the parable. But the parables are initially confusing for even His own disciples and He has to explain Himself.

- **How does it strike you to hear Jesus' own explanation of why He speaks in parables?**

Matthew 13:24-43

### Continuing in Parables

Jesus continues to speak in parables and the disciples are once again confused and have to ask Jesus as to the meaning of the parables.

- **With all of this confusion, how do you feel that the use of parables is meeting Jesus' communication goals?**

Matthew 13:44-52

### Even More Parables

Jesus shifts the subject of His parables, but continues to speak using them.

- **How do these parables compare with the earlier ones? What do they have in common? What is different?**

Matthew 13:53-58

### Jesus Rejected in Nazareth

Matthew switches back to recording narrative, here showing when Jesus returns to His home and is met with skepticism.

- **Why do you suppose the people of Nazareth are critical of Jesus?**

Matthew 14:1-12

### Death of John the Baptist

Matthew gives us a rare “flashback” as he explains the death of John the Baptist and the story behind it.

- **Why do you suppose Matthew records this story? What does it have to do with Jesus?**

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**Matthew 14:13-21**

**The Feeding of the 5000**

Matthew presents his telling of the only miracle recorded in all 4 Gospel accounts, the feeding of 5000 men after He teaches them.

- **Why do you think is story caught the attention of all 4 Gospel writers?**

**Matthew 14:22-46**

**Jesus Walks on Water**

After the feeding of the 5000, Jesus shows His disciples another miracle that causes them to grapple with His true identity.

- **What questions do you think the disciples have about Jesus at this time?**

**Congratulations! You're halfway through Matthew!**

Congratulations, you're halfway through the Gospel of Matthew. How does it feel to know that you have gotten this far?

**Red Letter Challenge this week – Drop Your Rocks**

This week, take Jesus' words from John 8:7, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone" to heart. Make a concentrated effort this week to withhold judgment of someone and focus on your own sins that equally offend God.