

HS SENIOR RECOGNITION (8:45AM SERVICE ONLY)

INTRODUCE

Good Morning Church! My name is Kyle Knight, if I haven't met you yet, I'm the Youth and Digital Minister here at Fathom Church as well as an Elder Candidate. I'm honored to be up here today, for those that do not know our lead pastor Chris is officially on sabbatical for the summer. So I'm excited to be up here to continue our study through the Gospel of Matthew this morning.

So if you have your Bibles please go ahead and open them up to Matthew chapter 14. Open up a phone or tablet, or you can grab one of the black Bibles underneath each chair and open it up to page **820**. If you're online with us you can click the Bible tab and it'll open up for you. Matthew 14 is where we are going to be this morning.

INTRODUCTION

And I just want to start off by saying the last time I was up here this Spring I was preaching on genocide in 1 Samuel...

And today I've got some verses on Jesus healing! So I feel good this morning! Funny how the Bible is sometimes, huh.

Now, this morning we have a whopping three verses to cover so I thought I would just go ahead and read our entire scripture passage to start off this morning and then we'll go back through it and pick it apart, does that sound good?

So follow along with me. Matthew 14, we're going to read verses 34-36

MATTHEW 14:34-36

[34] And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

[35] And when the men of that place recognized him, they sent around to all that region and brought to him all who were sick [36] and implored him that they might only touch the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

CONTEXT/RECAP

Now I want to go ahead and recap a little bit about what we've been reading and hearing so far in the gospel of Matthew.

- Last few sermons
 - We've read about a couple pretty big miracles
 - We had Jesus feeding the 5,000 (really 20,000 plus) with just 5 loaves and 2 fish, all that a little boy brought with him
 - Then we had Jesus walking on the water, and getting Peter to walk on the water,
 - And then Jesus calming the storm.

Now, after this little section, in the next few weeks

- We will see Jesus sort of get into it a little with the Pharisees,
- talking about him and his disciples breaking traditions
- and clean and unclean
- and then casting out demons

But today

We are finishing up this chapter with three little verses

- that honestly since they aren't talking about these big stories like Jesus feeding 20,000 plus people with only five loaves and 2 fish,
- and Jesus walking on the water,
- and Jesus casting out demons...

I feel like we might be tempted to just skip over this little section that finishes off chapter 14 and move on to the bigger, flashier things that await us next in chapter 15.

And if we're not careful, if we skip over pieces of scripture just to move on to the next thing,

- We might be missing something amazing.

STORY: OVERLOOK

It's almost like a post-credit scene...in a movie right?

Nowadays almost every movie has one so it makes you sit through all the credits at the end of the movie if you're in a theater, just to see what little scene they've shoved on the end to maybe tease the sequel or something. All the super-hero (Marvel) do this now.

And if you're not willing to just hang on and wait and keep going all the way til the end...

Then you might miss something pretty awesome!

And to be honest, especially when studying through the gospels, I feel like since we think we've probably heard these stories before, we remember all the "big" miracles Jesus performed...

We might see a couple verses tagged onto the very end of some incredible miracles and just think “Oh there’s nothing in those few verses...let’s just go on to the next chapter when Jesus starts casting out demons”

We might miss something.

And I believe there’s a lot here in just three verses that we shouldn’t miss.

TRANSITION

Ok,

So let’s go back and break this down a bit.

Let’s re-read verse 34 and start there:

MATTHEW 14:34

[34] And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

EXPLAIN: GENNESARET

Now let’s stop there for a second.

I know this short sentence doesn’t give us a lot of application here but I do want to explain a little about where they’re at, at this point.

This comes right after what Chris talked about last week.

Jesus just walked on the water, out to his disciples in the boat, Peter walked on the water out to Jesus...until he started to sink and Jesus grabbed him. And then Jesus got into the boat and the storm went silent.

So they finish crossing the Sea and land on the shore of this place called Gennesaret.

Now, not a lot is known about this area but what is known is it's a very lush, fertile valley right on the western bank of the Sea of Galilee, and it's only about 3.5 miles long.

So a small little piece of land. But very fertile and lush. So many people lived there. And it was only a couple miles south of a little city called Capernaum (which we've heard of plenty of times in Matthew already...Jesus had been around there performing miracles and teaching already)

History also tells us that one of the other names for the Sea of Galilee back then was the Lake of Gennesaret.

So that's really all we need to know about this spot ok.

TRANSITION

Ok now let's move on to what happened once Jesus and the disciples got off the boat in Gennesaret. Look at verse 35

MATTHEW 14:35

[35] And when the men of that place recognized him, they sent around to all that region and brought to him all who were sick

EXPLAIN: RECOGNIZE JESUS

Now this seems pretty typical for Jesus at this time, right.

Wherever Jesus went it seemed like there would be a huge crowd gathered to see Jesus teach...and likely perform some sort of miracle.

But I want to point out something here that is different from what we've been seeing.

You see, Jesus is met with people who recognize him...and then immediately go and bring their sick to him.

Now I know we'll break this all down in just a second,

But it's so interesting to see the acceptance to Jesus as these people have belief and faith in him already...

Whereas we've been seeing a lot of unbelief and difficulty receiving Jesus. There's a lot of doubt going on.

But not here.

Here we see the people of this small, 3.5 mile stretch of land right on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, recognize Jesus.

And the text doesn't just say they recognized Jesus

- It doesn't say they were just like...
- *'Hey it's Jesus...What's up man?! Ok cool. See ya later.'*

No.

Matthew says that they recognized him AND immediately went to bring people to him.

This meant that they recognized Jesus for who he was.

MAIN POINT 1: RECOGNIZE JESUS FOR WHO HE IS

And that's the first point I want to make this morning.

Just like the people of Gennesaret, we need to recognize Jesus for who he is.

SLIDE "RECOGNIZE JESUS FOR WHO HE IS"

They heard about Jesus, and what he had been doing

- Healing
- Miracles

AND THEY BELIEVED!

They didn't just recognize Jesus as someone they passes in the market the other day and just say

- *"hey it's that guy from the other day...cool see ya!"*

They recognized Jesus for who Jesus was proving himself to be.

ILLUSTRATION

Just this week I was at home with my boy watching

- it was either Planet Earth or Animal Planet

That show that you always need to be careful clicking on, especially when you have little ones in the room, cause you're about 98% gonna see some extremely adorable little fluffy baby animal...

Most likely about to get ripped to shreds by another animal, right?

I mean it always happens. And I know I get it.

It's the circle of life.

But come on, I don't need to see it 4k right next to my 5 year old.

Gonna make dad get a little something in his eye, right :(

But anyways, this time we turn it on and it's focusing on the nests of little baby birds. Albatross specifically (Albatrosses?? I don't know the plural of Albatross?)

Seagulls.

And yes, right as we turn it on and see a cute little fluffy baby Albatross in it's nest...no mom or dad in sight...

I'm thinking...

OH NO!

Here we go.

I gotta get ready to cover my kid's eyes in just a second...heck I gotta cover my own eyes.

But actually, this just happened to be one of the other 2% of the time when something innocent and cute doesn't get eaten on camera.

But instead, the Anthony Hopkins sounding narrator guy starts talking about how the parents left the nest to go get food.

And while the parents are gone, this one little fluffy baby seagull they are focusing on, tries to climb out of its nest.

And successfully does so and falls right out.

It's only on top of like a six inch rock or something. So the baby's fine.

But the baby falls out of the nest.

And he's all dirty now and trying to reach up and get back up into the nest but it's hard cause he's a baby and the nest is just out of reach, right. He can pretty much get his little beak up there but that's about it.

Well pretty soon, dad comes back to the nest with food. And I'm sitting there, thinking what you're probably thinking...

"Oh good, dad's back. He's gonna just reach over and grab the little baby and pull it back up into the nest. Not a big deal at all. Huge crisis averted."

Well of course it's not that simple in the animal kingdom, right.

The dad comes back to the nest and sits there...and just stares out...over the top of the baby. Not even looking down, not even helping the baby Albatross get back up into the nest even though you can see the baby is struggling and trying to get back up.

And the narrator goes on to say how if a baby Albatross leaves its nest, the parents do not recognize it anymore.

It's like they don't even see their own baby.

They don't recognize this baby bird right under their nose for who it is...THEIR OWN BABY!

Just because it's not in the nest! It's only 6 inches, even less, away...

But they don't recognize that that's THEIR BABY. That's who that is down there.

It's harsh, I know. But they don't recognize it for who he is.

Now luckily, the camera stays on this little fluffy baby Albatross and after it struggles and struggles to pull itself back up into the nest...

Finally it does so and flops back into the nest with dad.

And seriously, it's like dad Albatross just flips a switch and is like

"Oh hey there you are my own baby, what's up?" "There's my baby!"

Like seriously????

He finally recognizes that baby as HIS baby.

For some crazy reason, that baby Albatross needed to be in the nest, and then his dad would see him for who he truly was...his own baby.

APPLICATION

Now that's a weird example...

But it should get us thinking if we would recognize Jesus.

For who Jesus really is.

So, Who is Jesus to you?

I mean, I hope we would recognize Jesus. Like the people of Gennesaret did. Recognizing him for who he truly was.

And this is what it looks like to recognize Him for who he truly is:

When we recognize Jesus for who he is

- we recognize the power he has
- to transform lives
- for those who trust
- and have faith in him.

That's who Jesus was to these people! They saw him for the miracle worker, the healer that he was!

And church,

If we truly recognize Jesus for who he is...it should be our burning desire to tell everyone about him.

We shouldn't want to do anything else.

BLANK SLIDE

TRANSITION

And that brings us to the second part of verse 35 where after these people recognize Jesus here's what they do in response.

MATTHEW 14:35

[35] And when the men of that place recognized him, they sent around to all that region and brought to him all who were sick

EXPLAIN

You see it's not enough to just recognize Jesus for who he is...

We need to do something with it.

And that is what the people of Gennesaret did here. Once they recognized it was Jesus, they immediately ran and brought their sick to him.

And this is my second point, what we can learn from these couple verses here to close out chapter 14...

- They recognized Jesus for who he was
- And they brought people to him

MAIN POINT 2: SLIDE “BRING EVERYONE TO HIM”

Now,

I put as my point up on the screen “*Bring Everyone To Him*”

This passage is talking about the sick, right? I mean these people have been hearing things about Jesus...and as we’ll see maybe even seeing Him perform some of these miracles already.

So they knew this man was healing people.

So they brought their sick to him.

But it’s more than that. And that’s why I put “Bring Everyone To Him” not just the sick.

EXPLAIN: “SICK” OR “HAVE IT BAD”

You see,

- The word “sick” that we find in this passage is the translation of a Greek phrase that basically means
- “having it bad” or “having it wretched”.
- In other words,
 - The men of Gennesaret sought out and brought those to Jesus who “had it bad”
 - Those who were wretched
 - Who were miserable
 - Who were hopeless
 - Those who could not have brought themselves to Him—those who “had it bad”.

Not just the physically sick.

But those who *had it bad*.

APPLICATION

How many of us have it bad?

How many of us would consider ourselves miserable, wretched, even hopeless?

These people brought EVERYONE who “had it bad” to Jesus for healing.

Is that you?

Maybe you are sick

- Maybe you are the one feeling hopeless,
- in need,
- miserable.

I bet that could be a lot of us in different ways, today.

So this could translate for you as the the Holy Spirit tugging at you right now telling you

- to go to Jesus!
- Run to him.
- Get healing from him.

And maybe you need to hear that right now.

That Jesus has shown up, and he’s waiting to heal you.

And as we’ll see he *WILL* heal you.

But maybe

- that’s not what you need to hear from this verse today.

Maybe you aren’t physically sick

Maybe you aren’t so much spiritually sick either...like your relationship with Jesus is pretty good

- You recognize Jesus for who he is
- and believe in him,
- and have faith in him,

- and have your trust in him already...

And so now you need to BRING EVERYONE you know to him!

We all have those people in mind.

Those people in our lives that need Jesus right now.

Maybe it is for physical healing.

Maybe you need to bring people to Jesus in prayer today and ask him for his supernatural miraculous healing for something physical today.

That's great. Do that!

But what about those also who *"have it bad"* in other ways

- Who are hopeless.
- Who are miserable.
- Who are lost.
- Who might physically be ok but spiritually they couldn't be further from Jesus and wouldn't recognize him if he walked up on their shores right now.

What about those people who couldn't get to Jesus on their own...and need someone to bring them to Him...need your help.

EXAMPLE

You know it's crazy how many times in scripture where we see others bringing people to Jesus, right?

Like people who just couldn't get to Jesus on their own.

I mean I'm not gonna go through all of them cause we'd be here all day...
But even just a few of them that we've seen already just in Matthew's
gospel, right?

- In chapter 8 - *"they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons"*
- In chapter 9 - *"some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed."*
- Also in chapter 9 *"As they were going away, behold, a demon-oppressed man who was mute was brought to him"*
- And on and on and on...

If we call ourselves Christians,

- Christ followers...
- Then we should be immediately running to bring anyone and everyone we know to Jesus!
 - Anyone that is miserable
 - Anyone that is hopeless
 - Anyone that is sick...to Jesus.

If we have that knowledge and belief of who Jesus really is...

HOW COULD WE NOT BRING ANYONE AND EVERYONE TO HIM?!

HOW COULD WE JUST HOLD ONTO THAT?!

Who is that in your life?

- Who do you need to run out of this room right now and bring that person to Jesus?

BLANK SLIDE

TRANSITION

Let's get to this last part and see what happens when they bring their sick to Jesus...

MATTHEW 14:35-36

[35] And when the men of that place recognized him, they sent around to all that region and brought to him all who were sick [36] and implored him that they might only touch the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

EXPLAIN: THE FRINGE

Now, I want to spend a little bit of time on this last verse.

The people who brought their sick to Jesus

- "implored",
- *or in some other translations it says "begged"*

They *begged* Jesus that they might only touch the fringe of his garment.

EXPLAIN: HISTORICAL - THE FRINGE

Now, if you've been in church more than a minute you've probably heard of this before. People touching the fringe, or hem, of Jesus' clothes and being healed...

But I wanted to explain why this is.

You see in the Mosaic Law, going all the way back to the Old Testament,

- God instructed *His* people to do something
- with the corners, or fringes, of their garments.

We can see this written down in Numbers chapter 15 verses 37-41 where it says that the Jews were to

- *"make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a cord of blue on the tassel of each corner"*
- And this was
- as a reminder that they were God's people called to keep His commandments.

Now that sounds a bit weird to me, I don't know about you.

Making a tassel out of the fringe of your jorts?!

But digging deeper we learn that in the ancient near east

- the corner of a person's garment represented their identity, ok
- it was a symbol of who that person was and what they stood for.

So it was important.

And, this is cool...

- In Hebrew, the translation of the “corner of a garment” or “fringe”
- Means “wing”
 - In Malachi 4:2 a prophecy written about the Messiah, before Jesus came, says
 - *“But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in his wings.”*
- And they use that same word there for “wings” as ‘fringe’ or ‘corner of garment’

So you can think of it like this...

- If one were to give you the corner of their garment, their tassel, to grab or hold
- It would literally mean that they would be spreading their wings over you...covering you, the one in need, with their wings.

I mean that’s pretty cool, right?

Now people came to Jesus just to touch the corner of his garment, or to have Jesus’ “wings” cover them.

It’s like that phrase that we like to use sometimes nowadays to take someone under your wing

- Or to teach them, or help them.

These fringes represented that these people were God’s people and their identity was in Him.

And at the heart of the Messiah’s identity was healing.

Jesus, the Healer, wanted to take everyone, all who were sick, under his wings to help them and heal them.

EXPLAIN: SCRIPTURAL - THE FRINGE

So these people of Gennesaret would've known the Mosaic Law, they would've known what the fringes of this Jewish Teacher's garment meant.

But really quickly,

- Let's get one thing straight!
- The fringe itself didn't hold any magical power.
- Jesus' clothes didn't have the healing power within them, ok

The healing power of touching the fringe of Jesus' garment came by faith and belief in who Jesus was!

And how did they know this?

Well in part because only maybe a couple months before this moment,

- Jesus had already healed someone who reached out and touched the fringe of his clothes.

If you remember a few chapters back, and almost exactly one year ago today when Pastor Chris preached on matthew chapter 9

- We heard a story about a woman
- Who had uncontrollable bleeding for 12 years

- In a large crowd around Jesus
- Reached out and touched the fringe of his garment
- And was instantly healed

And if you remember Chris explained that word for “*touch*” was more likely translated to “*grasp*” or “*cling to*”

So she clung to Jesus.

This happened In Capernaum

- Maybe only 2-3 miles away

Which means

- These people in Gennesaret
- These people we are reading about today in Matthew chapter 14
- The people who recognized Jesus
- They recognized him because
 - They had heard
 - And maybe even seen Him already
 - And possible could have been there when Jesus did this exact same thing already and miraculously healed that woman in the crowd!

And that is why, here in verse 36, the people of this area ran to bring all their sick to Jesus!

They knew.

They recognized Jesus for the healer he was.

Because they knew he had done it before, and they believed that he would do it again.

And this is where I want to ask you, church:

- Hey maybe you recognize Jesus for who he truly is,
- And maybe you're willing to bring those who are sick or have it bad to him...

But do you truly believe that Jesus can heal you again??

He's done it before...

Do you trust that he can and will do it again?

And if so...

You gotta reach out to him.

MAIN POINT 3: SLIDE "REACH OUT TO HIM"

Do you believe and trust that he's powerful enough to heal you, heal your friends, heal your family,

- physically and spiritually!

If you have what it takes to reach out to him?

It's not enough to just recognize Jesus for who he is...

we need to bring everyone to Him...

and believe and trust that he can heal us again...
If we just have the faith to reach out and touch him.
And BE HEALED.

TRANSITION

And I say *be* healed because Matthew wraps up these 3 verses by saying
And as many as touched it were made well.

As many as reached out, and touched the fringe of his clothes,
As many as reached out in faith, and just touched the healer
As many as recognized Jesus for who he was and believed in what he
came to do...

They were ALL made well.

And some translations even say...were made *perfectly well*, OR *perfectly whole*!

Do you believe Jesus can make you whole again?

Do you know someone who needs to meet Jesus and be made whole again?

BLANK SLIDE

I want to challenge you today church,

I want to challenge all of us

- To recognize Jesus for the healer that He is and the power he has to make us perfectly well again.

- And let's not just keep that to ourselves...
 - Let's go tell everyone about him
 - Let's bring everyone to him

CONCLUSION

So there it is. Three verses. Three verses surrounded by some big incredible miracles.

But three verses that show us

- If we truly recognize him and believe in what He came to do...
- If we don't just keep it to ourselves and if we bring everyone we know who is sick to him...
- Knowing and trusting and believing that he will make those who "have it bad" ...perfectly well.

Then we can experience true, real, lasting healing.

Healing from the One who came to heal.

Come under his wings today, church.

Reach out to Him.

Receive his healing for you and be made perfectly well!

Let's pray! **LYRICS SLIDE W/PADS**

RESPONSES:

Well, every week at Fathom we respond in 4 ways:

- COMMUNION – THE LORD’S SUPPER (we do this every week, and we ask if you are not a Christian joining us to to just abstain from communion. We are so glad you’re here and you are welcome here but we believe communion is for those who have put their life in Jesus Christ).
- GIVING TITHES & OFFERINGS – fathomchurch.org/give (also if this is not your home church than don’t feel obligated to give at all, just be our guest today)
- PRAYER - fathomchurch.org/prayer
- SINGING

So, I’m going to read the Words of Institution from the Apostle Paul, we’ll take communion, and then we’ll sing:

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26 – WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[25] In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Love you church, let's stand and sing together.