

"The Gospel In One Verse"

Matthew 14:14

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By

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Our text today will come from Matthew chapter 14, one verse specifically. It's verse 14. Matthew 14:14. Let's begin reading in verse one, and we'll read down to it. It says, "At that time Herod the tetrarch heard of the fame of Jesus, and said unto his servants, 'This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead; and therefore mighty works do show forth themselves in him.' For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife. For John said unto him, 'It is not lawful for thee to have her.' And when he would have put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet." They counted John as a prophet. "But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod. Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask. And she, being before instructed of her mother, said, 'Give me here John Baptist's head in a charger.' And the king was sorry: nevertheless for the oath's sake, and them which sat with him at meat, he commanded it to be given her. And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison. And his head was brought in a charger, and given to the damsel: and she brought it to her mother. And his disciples came, and took up the body, and buried it, and went and told Jesus. When Jesus heard of it, he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart: and when the people had heard thereof, they followed him on foot out of the cities. And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick." Herod beheaded John the Baptist, and when John's disciples heard that that's what had happened to their dear brother, they went and asked if they could have his body. And they took it, and they buried it. And then they went and told the Lord everything that had happened. And when our

Lord heard their report, he got into a ship and went to a desert place apart, and a great multitude of people followed him. And when they got to him, he healed every one of them that was sick. Verse 13 says, "When Jesus heard of it, he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart: and when the people had heard thereof, they followed him on foot out of the cities. And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick." Now, what initially strikes me in reading this is how calmly our Lord responded to their news. Just how calmly... John's disciples came and told him the horror of what had just happened. And our Lord very calmly left that place and went about his good business, went about doing good. He went to another place, and he healed everybody who was sick. Now, the reason our Lord responded so calmly to their news is it was not news to him. This was not news to him at all. It was news to them. They heard of it and just, they were sorrowed by it and had a heartbroken reaction to it. It was news to them, but it was not news to him. Our Lord himself is the very one who predetermined for that to be done to John the Baptist. Our Lord is the one who allowed it. Our Lord is the one who ordained it. Foreordained. Our Lord is the one who sovereignly reigns and rules over all things, even this. Can I say that again? Because it's so. Based on the Word of God himself, our Lord is the one who sovereignly reigns and rules over all things, even this. In Deuteronomy 32, he said, you can read it for yourself. Deuteronomy 32, he said, "I kill." He said, "I wound." Job 14 says, "Man's days are determined. The number of his months are with the Lord." The Lord God has appointed his bounds, and man cannot pass. Cannot pass those bounds. Romans 8 says, "Whom the Lord God foreknow, he predestinated the life of that man or woman." Predestinated what would be the life of that man or woman. Now, you think about that. Predestinated. Just really, honestly, think about that. Predestinated. He appointed everything about that person's life. A time to be born. Is that not what the scripture says, what Proverbs says? There is a time to be born. There is a time to die. Every time in between that, all of it is appointed by the Lord. All of it is predetermined by the Lord. Hebrews 9 says, "It is appointed unto man once to die." It's not an accident. It's not an unfortunate circumstance. It's appointed by God Almighty for all men. But most importantly, here's the point we're coming to, most importantly, it's appointed by God Almighty for all men, but most importantly, it was appointed by God Almighty for the God man, Christ himself, even his death. If we get anything out of this message today, I hope we get this. Even his death, especially his death, was appointed by God Almighty: father, spirit, and son himself. When he would die, how he would die, why he would die. In John 10, this is what the Lord Jesus Christ said. He said, "I lay down my life that I may take it again." I lay it down. I take it again. He said, "No man taketh

it from me. I lay it down of myself." You've heard people say, talk about how horrible the death and crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ was, and it was horrible. It was the culmination of man's sin against God. That's what we did to him. But you've heard people say, "Well, if I would've been alive back then, I would've stopped it. I would've never let that happen." God Almighty would not have allowed any of us to do that. It was appointed by God Almighty. God Almighty did choose to use the means of some Jews and some Romans and a Roman cross. He did choose to carry this out through means, but everything that they did, the scripture says, was predetermined for them to do it. The Old Testament prophesied of it, that they would rip out his beard and spit in his face and lash his back and press thorns into his head. The Old Testament prophesied of it. All of it was predetermined by God Almighty. The death of the Lord Jesus Christ was no surprise to God. No surprise at all to God. Our Lord's reaction to John's death ought to show us something very comforting concerning our Lord Jesus Christ's death. The fact that Christ, his disciples begged for his body. You remember that after he died, his disciples when and begged for his body, and they buried him in a tomb. That was not news to God. None of that was news to God. That was the deceased that the father sent him to accomplish. That was the work that was given to him, that the father declared he shall not fail in it. He is going to accomplish his own decease for the salvation of his people. That was Christ's business for being here. That was his whole business for being here. He said, "For this cause came out into the world." And I wanna take what time we have here this morning to look at that cause. I want us to see the cause of Christ. I want our Lord's reaction to John's death to be a reminder of the cause of the Lord Jesus Christ, okay? I've titled this message *The Gospel in One Verse*. That's what we have here, the *Gospel in One Verse*, and here it is. Verse 14. Matthew 14:14 says, "And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick." That is salvation. That right there is salvation. That is what Christ accomplished in his death, his appointed death. That was his cause. That was his cause. "Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick." That's what Christ did for his people. That is the declaration of Christ, Jesus Christ in him crucified. That was his cause. Now, let's just focus on each line for a minute. Verse 14 says, "And Jesus went forth." This all started with him. Salvation, their healing from sickness. This all started with him. Many people do not realize this. Many people do not realize this. A lot of people believe that this thing of salvation starts with man. But it does not. It starts with God. God did this. Salvation is of the Lord. If any man glory, let him glory in the Lord because in the beginning, God. That's how it started. In the beginning, God. That's how salvation happened.

God did it. God did it. In the beginning was the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Word. The Word was with God, the Word was God, and the Word was made flesh and came to us. Came and dwelled among us. Why? Why did God become flesh and dwell among us? Why did God Almighty become flesh and dwell among us? Matthew chapter one told us why. If you would like to look back at Matthew chapter one, it says in verse 18, "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.'" That's why he came to us. He came to save us from our sins, even though our sins were so many, just so many. The angel said, "He, by himself, alone, shall." I love that word "shall." He didn't say he might. He might. Now, he's gonna try his best. He didn't say that. He said, "He shall save." Save, cleanse, heal, redeem, justify, wash his people. His people. Did he come for everybody? Christ came. He came for a purpose. He came to accomplish a work. Did he come to accomplish that work for everybody? Did he come to do this for everybody? I'll tell you this: If he did, he is a failure. Everyone is not saved. We all know that. We all know that. There are men and women in hell right now as we speak. So if Christ came to save everybody, then he did not accomplish what he came to do. He did not finish the work that his father gave to him. If he died for one soul that's in hell, then he did not accomplish the work he came to do. And we cannot put our hope and our trust in his Word, in the promise of his Word. What he did may or may not be enough to save us if that's the case. But thank God, I am so happy to tell us, thank God here is the truth of the matter. Not one drop of his blood... He hung there on that cross, he was bleeding from his head, bleeding from his hands, bleeding from his side, bleeding from his feet, bleeding from his back. The blood just flowed and poured out of him. Why? Without the shedding of blood, there's no remission of sins. All of his blood flowed out of his body, and not one drop of it failed. Not one drop of it was wasted. Not one drop of his priceless, precious blood. The blood of Jesus Christ is the most valuable substance of heaven. God poured out the most valuable substance of heaven to pay the debt for his people. And every single drop accomplished the purpose it was poured out for. Every single drop, every particular soul that blood was meant for, sacrificed for, shed for, poured out on, every single soul in that blood was saved. Every soul. Call his name Jesus for he shall save his people

from their sins. His particular people from their sins. That's why he came. That's what he did. And that's what our text illustrates to us. If you go back to Matthew chapter 14, verse 14 says, "And Jesus went forth." God did this. The Lord Jesus Christ did this. "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures." That's what James chapter one says. He did this. Verse 14 says, "And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude." A great multitude. He wasn't looking at every single soul on earth. He was looking at a particular group of people. Thank God it was a great multitude. They represent his God-given, chosen particular people. Elect, the scripture calls them. And it is a great multitude. I'm so thankful for that. I'm so glad to hear that. The scripture says that God's true elect people are a number that no man can number. That's a lot of people. A number no man can number. A great multitude. I love hearing that because that means that there might just be room for me. There might just be room for me and you. So thankful. Verse 14 says, "And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them." Moved with compassion toward them. Why did Christ die for his people? Why did he die for his people? There's a song that says, "Why did they nail him to Calvary's tree?" Why? Tell me why was he there? Why did Christ die for his people? He died for his people because he was moved with compassion toward them. That's the reason why. What does that word "compassion" mean? It means love. It means love. He died for them because he loved them and gave himself for them. Having loved his own, he loved them to the end. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us because he commended his love toward us. Greater love had no man. Is that not what the scripture says? Herein was love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and gave his son to be the bloody victim sacrificed, covering for our sins. That's the reason why he saved us. Why did he save us? That's the reason why. That's the reason why he died for us. Oh, the love that drew salvation's blueprint. Oh, the love. Verse 14 says, "And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick." That's what Christ accomplished in his death. The great physician healed his sick people. Sick with sin. This great disease called sin. When God the son cried, "It is finished. It is finished. They are perfected. They are redeemed. They are purchased back in the blood of my payment." when he cried that, God the father cried, "I'm satisfied. I'm satisfied with that payment. I'm satisfied with their redemption. I accept their redemption. I accept them in that redemption." And when God the son cried, "It's finished," and God the father cried, "I'm satisfied," God the spirit cried, "I'll go deliver the news." And that's what happens through the preaching of the gospel. Through this means right here, God the spirit says to his people, "Live. Dead in trespasses and sins, sinner, live. You are healed.

You are well." There is remission. There is remission. You have been quickened, you've been revived, made upright again by the operation of the Son of God. All because of his work, you can now live and move and have your being. Live, live. That's what Christ accomplished in his death for his people. Life. Death to life. He himself bore our sins in his own body on the tree. That we being dead to sins should live under righteousness by whose stripes we are healed. That means because of what Christ did, everything he endured, everything he accomplished, the sin is gone. That's what it means. It is gone. Absolutely gone. That's the good news of the gospel. If you'd like to turn over to Jeremiah chapter 50, I'm gonna read a verse of scripture to you. And this is the absolute good news of the gospel. Jeremiah 50:20. This is one of my favorite verses. It says, "'And in those days, and in that time,' saith the Lord, 'the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for.'" In that great day, God's gonna send out the seekers. You go search out the iniquity, the sin of my people and see if you can find it. And it says, "'In those days, and in that time,' saith the Lord, 'the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none.'" None. "And the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve." Gone. They're all gone. Now, I have a couple of minutes left, and I'm gonna see if I can tell you a quick story before it's time to go. A dear man who I love very much, who died a couple of years ago at the age of 92, this is a story that happened to him. When he was 21 years old in 1948, he was driving in a car with his friend, and it was pouring down rain, and he didn't see a stop sign, and he ran that stop sign and hit another car. A woman was driving that other car. And he tore up both cars, and the woman had a gash over her forehead. And this dear man felt so bad about it, and the officer gave him a ticket to appear in court. And he was nervous about it. He was 21, and he'd never been to court before. So he called his father from Birmingham, Alabama to come up to Chattanooga, Tennessee with him to go to court. So his father came, and they sat in that courtroom, and it was full of people. And he said they were there for two or three hours. And one by one a case would be called, and the offender would go up, and the judge would deal accordingly, and then they would leave the courtroom. And so there were less and less people as time went on until finally he and his father were the only two people left in the courtroom. And the judge looked at him, and the judge was looking through his papers, kind of fumbling through his papers, and he looked at him again and fumbled a little bit more and searched. And he finally said, "Son, what are you charged with?" And this dear man stood up, and he said, "I was driving, and it was raining, and I ran a stop sign, and I hit another car, and I'm so sorry and this and that." And the judge said, "Yeah, I understand all that, but what are you charged with?" And he didn't know what to say. So the judge looked at the police officer and said, "What is this young man charged

with?" And the officer standing there started looking through all of his papers, and he finally said, "I have no record of any charge." And the judge said, "No record of any charge?" The officer said, "No, your honor. No, no record." So the judge fumbled through his papers one more time, went through it real good, and he looked at this young man and he said, "Son, there is no charge against you. You are free to go home." And that's what will be said to all of God's people who were covered in the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no condemnation, no charge. It is all removed. It's all gone. That's the gospel. May the Lord bless that word to our hearts.