

Pastor Roy's Study Questions on Matthew 14:1-21 **(October 22, 2025)**

— *Below are questions to help further our understanding of Wednesday's Sermon.* —

1. How does the contrast between Herod's fear of public opinion and his willingness to execute John the Baptist reveal the dangers of living for the approval of others rather than for God?
2. In what ways do we see Jesus modeling compassion even in His own moments of deep grief, and how can we apply this to our own lives when facing personal loss?
3. What does John the Baptist's willingness to speak truth to power, even at the cost of his life, teach us about the cost of faithful discipleship in our modern context?
4. How does the feeding of the five thousand demonstrate that what seems insufficient in human hands becomes abundant in God's hands, and where do you see this principle at work in your life?
5. Jeremiah 17:9 states that the heart is deceitful and desperately sick. How do the actions of Herod and Herodias illustrate this truth, and what safeguards can we put in place to guard our own hearts?
6. Why do you think Jesus chose to give thanks to God before performing the miracle of feeding the multitude, and what does this teach us about the role of gratitude in experiencing God's provision?
7. How does the disciples' initial response to send the crowds away to find food contrast with Jesus's command to feed them, and what does this reveal about human versus divine perspective on meeting needs?
8. What does the violent death of John the Baptist teach us about the reality that faithfulness to God does not always guarantee earthly safety or comfort?
9. The sermon emphasizes waking up with joy and maintaining it throughout the day. How can we practically cultivate this kind of Christ-centered joy even when facing difficult circumstances?
10. How does the account of Herod's rash oath and its deadly consequences warn us about the importance of carefully considering our words and promises before we make them?