

Questions for Reflection and Discussion
Matthew 14:1-21

Getting Started

What is one of the most unusual gifts you've ever received?

Digging In

1. **Read Matthew 14:1-12.** Why do you suppose Herod thought that Jesus was John the Baptist – risen from the dead?
2. What had John the Baptist done to make Herod angry? What does this tell us about Herod? About John?
3. Herod put John in jail, but was reluctant to take further action. Why?
4. Describe the circumstances that got Herod into hot water. Tell the story in your own words.
5. What were the character weaknesses and poor decisions that led Herod to this predicament?
6. **Read Matthew 14:13-21.** Jesus was tired and in need of rest, yet how did he respond to the crowd? (cf. Matt 9:35-36)
7. Why did the disciples suggest that the crowd be sent away? Do you think their suggestion was reasonable? Why or why not?
8. Why did Jesus tell them to feed the crowd? What do you think he had in mind?
9. What did the disciples bring to Jesus? Was it enough? Why or why not?
10. What steps did Jesus take to feed the crowd? Why do you think he used the disciples?

Getting Personal

- What are some of the gifts that God has given you to serve him?
- What are some of the opportunities?
- Have you offered what you have to Jesus?
- Is there anything that is standing in the way of bringing your gifts to Jesus?

