



Grace Assembly Of God

Chapter-by-Chapter Bible Reading Devotional

Scripture:	Matthew 14	Title:	Fear God, Not Man
Author:	Cheong Poh Peng		
Summary of Chapter:	This chapter is about three events – Herod beheads John the Baptist, Jesus Feeds 5,000 and Jesus Walks on Water.		

Key Verse(s)	How does it speak to me?
<p>Matthew 14:3-5 ³ For Herod had arrested and imprisoned John as a favor to his wife Herodias (the former wife of Herod's brother Philip). ⁴ John had been telling Herod, "It is against God's law for you to marry her." ⁵ Herod wanted to kill John, but he was afraid of a riot, because all the people believed John was a prophet.</p>	<p>Herod was raised a Jew but he did not fear sinning against God, refusing to repent though John kept telling him his marriage was unlawful. He showed a greater fear of offending man when he imprisoned John as a favour to his wife, and made choices based on man's opinion.</p> <p>Fearing God means living for God's approval rather than man's approval. We please and honour God out of respect and awe for who He is. It is being quick to repent of sin, knowing God hates sin, and choosing to do the right thing even when no one is looking. Sometimes it is not easy to obey God, because of temptation, and sometimes we might be unsure what the right thing to do is. When I am unsure, I will ask God. God is always quick to answer my questions when I am sincere about pleasing Him.</p> <p>Recently I received \$3,000 from the government as part of the Self-Employed Income Relief Scheme. I was tempted to keep the money even though I had retired, reasoning that I had not cheated the government, and I could give the money to the needy. When I consulted God on the matter, He helped me understand it was an integrity issue. Though sad when refunding the money, joy soon filled my heart knowing I had chosen to please God rather than myself.</p> <p>So living in the holy fear of God is being quick to repent of our sins, and obeying Him and honouring Him even when no one is looking, knowing that one day all of us will have to stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ to account for what we have done on earth. I want to be confident and unashamed when I stand before Christ on that Day.</p>

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Adult:	Where are you showing more concern for man's approval than God's approval? What are some areas where you have been resisting the conviction of the Holy Spirit? What will you do?
Youth:	What are some things you do with your friends even though you know it is not pleasing to God? What is one thing you will change to honour and please God?
Child:	This week, what is one way you will show respect for God (a) in school (b) at home?

PRAYER

Praying Scripture:	Dear heavenly Father, help us live for Your approval rather than man's approval. Help us obey You and please You, even when no one is watching, and give us tender hearts to repent quickly when convicted of sin, so that when we stand before Christ on Judgment Day, we will be confident and unashamed.
Thanksgiving Prayer:	I/We thank you for _____ (e.g. delicious food we ate, places we went, prayer that was answered, etc)
Intercessory Prayer:	I/We want to pray for _____ (e.g. healing of sickness, family members, work or study, leaders, nation, etc)
Salvation Prayer:	I/We pray for the salvation of my/our unsaved loved ones _____ (add one name per day). In Jesus' Name I/we pray. Amen.