

**A HEART FOR GOD WHEN THE
PRESSURE IS MOUNTING
MATTHEW 14:1-21**

Text:

Introduction:

Illustration of Chippie the parakeet being sucked into the vacuum.

The story of Chippie reminds us of days that each of face in life. We start off singing on our perch and by the end of the day we are just sitting and staring off into space.

But we must remember that when this happens we have a great source of comfort.

Hebrews 4:15 (KJV)

¹⁵ For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin.

If we are saved we have a High Priest to whom we can pray. We can maintain a heart for God when it seems as though we've been sucked up, drenched, and dried off and left to sit gazing off into eternity.

We need to follow the example of Jesus Christ as He shows us how to handle the pressures of life.

1. THE PRESSURE OF PERSONAL LOSS

The Lord's day was just beginning and He already received terrible news.

A. Personal family

1. John the Baptist put to death

Matthew 14:12 (KJV)

¹² And his disciples came, and took up the body, and buried it, and went and told Jesus.

2. THE PRESSURE OF POLITICAL & RELIGIOUS THREAT

Matthew 14:13 (KJV)

¹³ 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.

1. Herod – political leader

2. Religious leaders

3. THE PRESSURE FOR PRIVATE TIME

Matthew 14:13-14 (KJV)

¹³ 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. ¹⁴ And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.

A. The multitudes followed Jesus

B. The multitude demanded His attention

1. They came hungry

4. THE PRESSURE TO PREPARE DISCIPLES

Matthew 14:22 (KJV)

²² And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.

A. As He prays He sees them in trouble!

Matthew 14:24-25 (KJV)

²⁴ But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. ²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

B. He walks on the water to them

Matthew 14:26 (KJV)

²⁶ And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.