AT THAT TIME HEROD THE TETRARCH HEARD THE REPORTS ABOUT JESUS, AND HE SAID TO HIS ATTENDANTS, "THIS IS JOHN THE BAPTIST; HE HAS RISEN FROM THE DEAD! THAT IS WHY MIRACULOUS POWERS ARE AT WORK IN HIM." NOW HEROD HAD ARRESTED JOHN AND BOUND HIM AND PUT HIM IN PRISON BECAUSE OF HERODIAS, HIS BROTHER PHILIP'S WIFE, FOR JOHN HAD BEEN SAYING TO HIM:

"IT IS NOT LAWFUL FOR YOU TO HAVE HER." HEROD WANTED TO KILL JOHN, BUT HE WAS AFRAID OF THE PEOPLE, BECAUSE THEY CONSIDERED JOHN A PROPHET. ON HEROD'S BIRTHDAY THE DAUGHTER OF HERODIAS DANCED FOR THE GUESTS AND PLEASED HEROD SO MUCH THAT HE PROMISED WITH AN OATH TO GIVE HER WHATEVER SHE ASKED. PROMPTED BY HER MOTHER, SHE SAID, "GIVE ME

HERE ON A PLATTER THE HEAD OF JOHN THE BAPTIST." THE KING WAS DISTRESSED, BUT BECAUSE OF HIS OATHS AND HIS DINNER GUESTS, HE ORDERED THAT HER REQUEST BE GRANTED AND HAD JOHN BEHEADED IN THE PRISON. HIS HEAD WAS BROUGHT IN ON A PLATTER AND GIVEN TO THE GIRL, WHO CARRIED IT TO HER MOTHER. JOHN'S DISCIPLES CAME AND TOOK HIS BODY AND BURIED

IT. THEN THEY WENT AND TOLD JESUS. WHEN JESUS HEARD WHAT HAD HAPPENED, HE WITHDREW BY BOAT PRIVATELY TO A SOLITARY PLACE. HEARING OF THIS, THE CROWDS FOLLOWED HIM ON FOOT FROM THE TOWNS. WHEN JESUS LANDED AND SAW A LARGE CROWD, HE HAD COMPASSION ON THEM AND HEALED THEIR SICK. AS EVENING APPROACHED, THE DISCIPLES CAME TO HIM AND

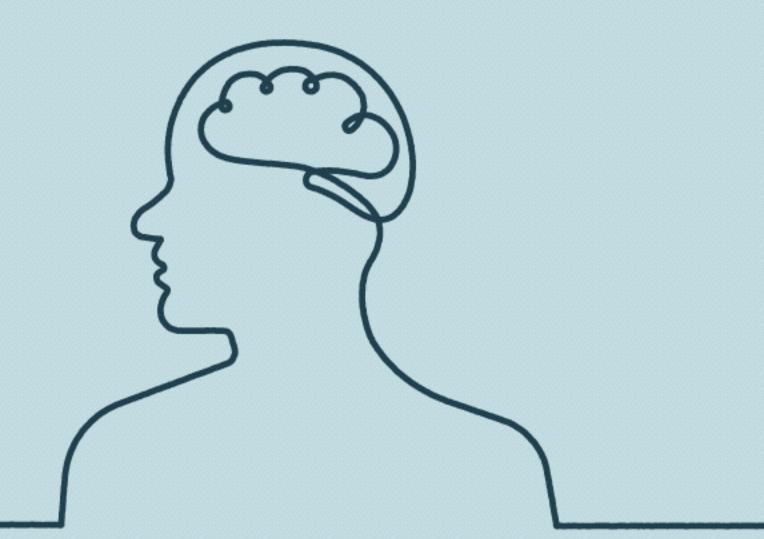
SAID, "THIS IS A REMOTE PLACE, AND IT'S ALREADY GETTING LATE. SEND THE CROWDS AWAY, SO THEY CAN GO TO THE VILLAGES AND BUY THEMSELVES SOME FOOD." JESUS REPLIED, "THEY DO NOT NEED TO GO AWAY. YOU GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT." "WE HAVE HERE ONLY FIVE LOAVES OF BREAD AND TWO FISH," THEY ANSWERED. "BRING THEM HERE TO ME," HE SAID. AND HE DIRECTED THE PEOPLE TO SIT

DOWN ON THE GRASS. TAKING THE FIVE LOAVES AND THE TWO FISH AND LOOKING UP TO HEAVEN, HE GAVE THANKS AND BROKE THE LOAVES. THEN HE GAVE THEM TO THE DISCIPLES, AND THE DISCIPLES GAVE THEM TO THE PEOPLE. THEY ALL ATE AND WERE SATISFIED, AND THE DISCIPLES PICKED UP TWELVE BASKETFULS OF BROKEN PIECES THAT WERE LEFT OVER. THE NUMBER OF

THOSE WHO ATE WAS ABOUT FIVE THOUSAND MEN, BESIDES WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

THE GOSPEL OF

Matthew



UNDERSTANDING
THE KINGDOM

MATTHEW 14

V. 1-21



JESUS KNOWS

FOR WE DO NOT HAVE A HIGH PRIEST WHO IS UNABLE TO EMPATHIZE WITH OUR WEAKNESSES, BUT WE HAVE ONE WHO HAS BEEN TEMPTED IN EVERY WAY, JUST AS WE ARE—YET HE DID NOT SIN. LET US THEN APPROACH GOD'S THRONE OF GRACE WITH CONFIDENCE, SO THAT WE MAY RECEIVE MERCY AND FIND GRACE TO HELP US IN OUR TIME OF NEED.

HEBREWS 4:15-16



JESUS CHALLENGES



JESUS PROVIDES

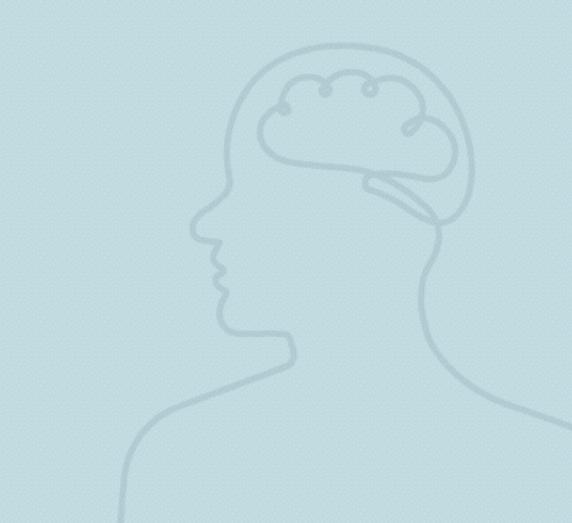
WHILE THEY WERE EATING, JESUS TOOK BREAD, AND WHEN HE HAD GIVEN THANKS, HE BROKE IT AND GAVE IT TO HIS DISCIPLES, SAYING, "TAKE AND EAT; THIS IS MY BODY."

MATTHEW 26:26





HE WHO DID NOT SPARE HIS OWN SON, BUT GAVE HIM UP FOR US ALL—HOW WILL HE NOT ALSO, ALONG WITH HIM, GRACIOUSLY GIVE US ALL THINGS?



ROMANS 8:32



