



Summer Blockbuster Reading Challenge

3 months—4 Gospels—Go!

TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2022



Take your Pulse

What summer plans are you looking forward to?

How overwhelmed are you feeling as you look forward to those summer plans?

Today's Reading

Matthew Chapter 14

John the Baptist is such a minor character in the gospels, we hardly know anything about him. Luke tells us his birth story, as a precursor to Jesus' birth. Here in Matthew, we hear the story of John's death, a story repeated in Mark and Luke. John's death is a precursor as well to Jesus' death. Herod holds off killing him immediately, but only when it is about saving face and political power does Herod finally have him executed. The Sanhedrin waits a long time before trying to arrest Jesus, only when they need to save face at a time of Jesus' disrupting the Passover celebration, and for the concern of their own political power, do they request Jesus' death and have it granted by the Roman authorities.



Start the Thinking

Look at the details of the timeline in the walking on the water story. When is Jesus aware his disciples are dealing with a storm? When does Jesus arrive at the boat? When do the waves finally stop beating against the boat? When are we aware of Jesus' presence in our lives even as a "storm" rages around us, even long before the "storm ceases"?



Conversing with God

God of nature, you command the heat, the rain, the winds, the cold, and all that mother nature can throw at us. Sometimes we are battered by very real storms. Sometimes the word "Storm" is a figure of speech we use to describe all sorts of troubles we are facing. You are in command of even those figurative storms. We always prefer calm weather, but help us to trust your presence, even in the fiercest storm. In Jesus' holy name we pray. Amen.



Be blessed

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine brightly upon you that you experience all God's grace. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

In the name of the Father, and the + Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen