



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The King's Presence!

Matthew 14:22-36

Message #40 of 80 – S1071

Sermon given on November 12, 2023



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The King's Presence!

Matthew 14:22-36

Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 14**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The King's Presence!**
- In the last message we looked at the feeding of the 5,000 with five loaves and two fish.
- That miracle was a radical expression of Christ's divinity – He is Creator God.
- In today's text we see another expression of Christ's divinity.
- Like I shared last week, even though we are familiar with the account of Jesus walking on water, let this text fill your heart with wonder.
- The account picks up right after they collected twelve baskets of leftovers.
- **Matthew 14:22**
- What Matthew's account leaves out is that the multitudes wanted to take Jesus by force and make Him king.
- So, Jesus sends the disciples away and then sends the multitudes away.
- And then He does what He came to this desolate place to do.
- **Matthew 14:23**
- Jesus, God in the flesh, took time to get away by Himself to pray.
- This could be the one thing that keeps believers and churches from being more for Jesus – a lack of time alone with God in prayer.
- Even though Christ is alone with the Father in prayer, He can see what is going on with the disciples.
- **Matthew 14:24**
- The disciples were struggling all night against these angry waves and threatening winds.

- No matter what is going on in our lives, Jesus can see us and will come when the time is right.
- **Matthew 14:25**
- ‘fourth watch’ - Between 3:00 and 6:00 am.
- Why didn’t Jesus come to them sooner?
- Couldn’t Jesus have prayed less and come them early in their distress?
- He could have, but He didn’t.
- No explanation is given as to why – He came when it was time for Him to be there.
- Jesus knows when we are in the storm.
- He knows when we are in distress and troubled.
- He knows when the darkness is closing in all around us.
- He comes to us in those times when it is the right time to come.
- We might feel He is late, but He is never late.
- Peter and several of the others in the boat were seasoned fishermen.
- Christ’s ‘delay’ may have been to wait until they reached the end of their own ability and resources and were ready to trust Christ implicitly.
- If we retain any thoughts that we can save ourselves from our circumstances, God may take His hands off the situation and let us try.
- Like the young child learning to ride a bike telling daddy to let go because they can do it themselves.
- Daddy lets go and before long the child falls and daddy runs to help them up.
- Jesus is sovereign and Lord over all creation.
- Jesus, Creator God, has total authority over His creation.
- For man it is impossible to walk on water.
- But for Creator God, the water can be commanded to support His weight as if He were walking on a concrete sidewalk.
- The storm may rage around us, but Jesus is present with us no matter how boisterous the winds and waves are.
- **Matthew 14:26-27**
- The disciples must be exhausted after fighting the storm all night long.
- They are soaked and desperate.

- What would you have thought if you were in their place and saw a shadowing figure in the distance in the middle of the storm-tossed lake?
- They weren't looking for Jesus in the middle of that storm.
- All they had was themselves.
- The lesson for us is to be watching for Jesus in the storms of our life.
- He may appear to us in ways we are not expecting but if we are watching for Him, we are more likely to see Him when He shows up.
- As usual, Peter is the first one to act.
- **Matthew 14:28-29**
- All Peter had to go on was the simple command, 'Come.'
- Peter had never seen anyone walk on water until he saw Jesus do it.
- He had never walked on water or done anything even remotely like it.
- Real faith is moving on the word of God alone.
- Faith is hearing the command to 'Come' and believing that it is a command God expects you to obey.
- And because God expects you to obey, He will empower you to obey.
- Nothing is impossible for God.
- It is one thing for Jesus to walk on water.
- After all, He is God in the flesh, the Son of God.
- It is quite another thing for Jesus to empower one of His poor weak disciples to do it.
- Peter was able to do this mighty miracle because Jesus was there with him.
- He could see Jesus doing it and he heard Jesus' command to 'come.'
- If Jesus hadn't been there, Peter would never have stepped out of the boat.
- Peter is doing so well – He is walking on water – until...
- **Matthew 14:30**
- We sometimes give Peter a hard time for his weak faith in this account.
- Let's keep in mind that he holds the record for the second longest distance of someone walking on water.
- This is the power of unbelief.

- When we choose to believe God, we can do anything He calls us to do, even that which is impossible.
- When we choose not to believe God, even those things we should be able to do become difficult, and the impossible things remain impossible.
- This is a picture of a battle that all believers engage in every day (Galatians 5:16-17).

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

- The flesh is the part of us that seeks its own way and interests.
- The spirit is the part of us that was made alive when we received Christ, and it seeks to please God and obey Him.
- When we choose not to believe God it is because the flesh was stronger than our spirit (Matthew 26:41).

Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

- Peter's spirit believed Christ and obeyed Him and walked on the water.
- Peter's flesh looked at the boisterous winds and waves and believed that he couldn't walk on water.
- Peter chose to trust his flesh more than his spirit and the result was spiritual failure which led to his sinking.
- As long as we are wrapped in this flesh there will be a battle between the flesh and the spirit.
- The flesh does not trust God and cannot be trusted to carry us to God.
- The spirit trusts God to the degree that we know Him.
- The better we get to know God the more our spirit will trust God and the more able we are to obey Him, even when He calls us to do the impossible.

- **Matthew 14:31**

- As soon as Peter turns his eyes back to Christ, Jesus saves him.
- He then gives Peter a mild rebuke for doubting what he knew to be true – that if Jesus called him to walk on water, he could have walked all the way to Jesus on the water.

- **Matthew 14:32-33**

- ‘Son of God’ – this is the first time it is recorded that the disciples called Jesus this.
- That is the right response when you realize you are in Christ’s presence.
- **Matthew 14:34-36**
- ‘as many as touched it’ – This was an act of faith.
- How many heard that touching this man’s robe would heal them and not believing refused to do it and left without experiencing God’s grace?
- This could describe many in the world and maybe some within the church.
- They come and hear the messages and experience God’s love through God’s people and yet refuse to believe that God is the source of it and that Christ is the reason for it.
- They may come within inches of God’s grace and then refuse to reach out and touch the hem of Christ’s garment or refuse to cry out to Jesus to save them and they sink down into the dark waters of their troubles and difficulties.
- It only takes a very small amount of faith to put your trust in Jesus and be saved. Do it today! **Pray - Communion**