

Matthew 14:22-36 - The King's Presence!

Scriptures:

22 Immediately Jesus made His disciples get
G2112 - then

Notes:

They had spent the day healing all the sick and then the radical miracle of the feeding of the 5,000. Jesus had come to this place to be alone and to pray.

Did the disciples ask Jesus how He was going to get to the other side? Or. Did they just assume He would come in another boat?

into the boat and go before Him to the other

side, while He sent the multitudes away.

Scriptures:

23 And when He had sent the multitudes

Notes:

Jesus, God in the flesh, took time to get away by Himself to pray.

away, He went up on the mountain by Himself

We see two things contrasted here. First, the calmness of Christ as He communes with the Father alone on the mountain. Second, we have the disciples struggling in the storm. The disciples are struggling and cannot see Jesus. Jesus is at peace and can see the disciples as they struggle.

No matter what is going on in our lives, Jesus can see us and will come when the time is right.

to pray. Now when evening came, He was

G4336 -

alone there.

G3441 -

Scriptures:

24 But the boat was now in the middle of the

Notes:

The disciples were struggling all night against these angry waves and threatening winds.

sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was

contrary.

G1727 – against,
hostile.

25 Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus

Notes:

'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.

went to them, walking on the sea.

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.

G4043 -

G1909 - ἐπί (epi)

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 the 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.

One of the lessons of this text is that there is nothing that is outside Christ's power and sovereign control. The storm may rage around us, but Jesus is present with us no matter how boisterous the winds and waves are.

Scriptures:

26 And when the disciples saw Him walking

on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is

G5015 –
distressed,
disturbed.

a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.

G5326 -
φάντασμα
(phantasma) –
English word
phantom come
from this word.

G5401 - φόβος
(phobos)

Notes:

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 is there somewhere. He may not be ready to reveal Himself immediately, but He is coming. 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.

The feeding of the 5,000 was a display of Christ's divine creative power. This is a display of His divine power over nature. Natural laws do not limit someone who is supernatural.

Scriptures:

27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them,

saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be

G2293 - VPAM

afraid."

Notes:

Scriptures:

28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if

Notes:

it is You, command me to come to You on the

G2753 -

water."

Scriptures:

29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had

Notes:

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.

come down out of the boat, he walked on the

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.

water to go to Jesus.

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.

Scriptures:

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.

Matthew 26:41 - Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Ephesians 4:32 - And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Matthew 5:43-44 - You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you...

Jeremiah 17:9a - The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked...

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 - For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ...

30 But when he saw that the wind was

boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to

G2478 - intense

sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

G4982 - rescue

This battle takes place in the heart and mind. The flesh tends to focus on the heart and influences the mind. The spirit tends to work in the heart. The prophet Jeremiah was inspired to tell us that we can't trust our heart (Jeremiah 17:9a). And then the apostle Paul tells us to train our mind (2 Corinthians 10:4-5). As our knowledge of God grows and we learn to trust Him more, we become better able to discern when our heart, our feelings and desires, are lying to us.

Notes:

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 believer engages in every day (Galatians 5:16-17). 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).

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.

When we speak of doing the impossible, we are probably not talking about walking on water. It is highly unlikely that God is going to ask us to walk on water or multiply loaves and fishes to feed the multitudes. It is likely to be something much more common. It could be forgiving someone who has hurt you deeply (Ephesians 4:32). Or maybe it might be loving someone who is acting as an enemy toward you (Matthew 5:43-44). The flesh is revolted by the idea of that and will resist any attempt to trust God and obey Him.

Scriptures:

31 And immediately ⁺ Jesus stretched out ⁺ His

G2112 -

hand and caught him^P, and said to him^P,

"O you of little faith^P, why did you^H doubt^P?"

G3640 -

G1365 – "to doubt v. — to lack confidence in or have doubts about."

Notes:

The primary lesson in this text is that Jesus is present with His people.

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.

Thankfully God doesn't reject us if we have doubts. Like a mother with a small child, God understands how feeble our faith truly is and He is prepared to help us to learn to walk in faith.

Doubt is something most Christians must deal with in their walk with God. Doubt is not evidence of the absence of faith, it is a measure of the quality of faith.

"Doubt does not prove that a person has no faith, but only that his faith is small; and even when our faith is small, the Lord is ready to help us." (Ryle, 1993) page 123

We should never despise or condemn small faith; we should rejoice that there is any faith at all. And while we should not despise small faith, we should never be content with it. When God reveals that our faith is small, we must humble ourselves before Him and ask the Holy Spirit to grow our faith.

Scriptures:

32 And when they got into the boat, the wind

Notes:

ceased.

G2869 -

Scriptures:

33 Then those who were in the boat came and

Notes:

'Son of God' – this is the first time it is recorded that the disciples called Jesus this. Satan did in Matthew 4 and the demon Legion did in Matthew 8.

worshipped Him, saying, "Truly You are the

G4352 -

Son of God."

Scriptures:

34 When they had crossed over, they came to

Notes:

Gennesaret is on the west side of the sea of Galilee.

the land of Gennesaret.

Scriptures:

Mark 5:18-20 - And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. 19 However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you." 20 And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled.

35 And when the men of that place recognized

Notes:

Jesus' fame is spreading quickly. His healings and miracles are being talked about everywhere.

Him, they sent out into all that surrounding

region, brought to Him all who were sick,

Scriptures:

36 and begged Him that they might only touch

Notes:

'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.

the hem of His garment. And as many as

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!

touched *it* were made perfectly well.

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