

## Summer at the Sea – Walking on the Water – July 19, 2023

Story of Jesus walking on the water – **Matt 14, Mark 6, and John 6.**

Only in Matt, do we hear about Peter. Put in context:

- John the Baptist was beheaded. Grief. Yet Jesus serves, miracle 5,000.
- Jesus sent them away. **John 6** – set off for Capernaum. In Bethsaida.  
**Mark 6** – the opposite, said disciples set off for Bethsaida.

### 10 Life Principles.

#### **1 – We need solitude . . . sometimes**

- Need to be renewed, revived, grieve, get direction . . .
- **Mark** points out 3x Jesus withdrew to pray; in each time, crisis
  - Crisis? **John** – people wanted to make Jesus king by force
- Can't hear God's voice if He's competing with noise.

#### **2 – God sees our struggles.**

- **John**: Dark, a strong wind was blowing, water grew rough. 3 mi. out.
- **Mark**: Disciples are in middle of the lake. Jesus sees them “straining at the oars b/c the wind was against them;” 4<sup>th</sup> watch, they see him. 3-6 am
- **Matt**: Jesus sees the boat a considerable distance from land. He walks to them on water, they're terrified.
- Whatever you're going thru. . . whatever your storm, God sees.
  - He comes to us . . . we aren't alone.
- And Jesus said: *“Take courage! It is I. Don't be Afraid.”* Same for us.
  - Don't keep rowing your boat alone . . . trying to **do it alone**.
  - The **boat was not their safety** . . . Jesus was. Boat just a tool.

#### **3 – Peter: “Lord, if it's you...tell me to come to you on the water.”**

- Peter needs a sign . . . some proof & Jesus isn't upset about it. “Come.”
- God will give us signs, b/c he wants us to have peace. **Confident**.
  - Gideon asked for a sign . . . is that your voice I'm hearing?
  - **Judges 6** – If you're going to save Israel by my hand? Fleece wet/dry.
  - Are you **putting out a fleece**? God is patient with us.

#### **4 – When Jesus says: “Come.” Peter gets out of the Boat.**

- **Fear will keep you in the boat, but faith will get you out.**

Remember Jesus' words - *“Take courage! Don't be Afraid.”* **Courage** is a **choice**

- Courage is choosing to believe in Jesus . . . He's greater... makes a way...
- Whatever you're going thru. . . whatever your storm, God will see u thru.

## 5 – We all have storms.

- Every **storm** in our life is an **opportunity**: see God work & draw closer
- Jesus walked out to them so they – and we – could know His power.
  - o He has power over your circumstances... let Him work... in His time.
- Peter **walked** out to Jesus **during the storm**.
  - o We can experience powerful, life-changing moments in the middle of the storm. Peter would likely talk about this forever!
    - We can also have **peace**... it's not the **absence of storms**.

## 6 – Storms help us **build mature faith**.

- We may think we're maturing . . . storms test/idea.
  - o **Scared? Sleepless? Can't concentrate?** You're showing little faith
  - o **At peace?** Still praising God? You're showing mature faith.
- **Faith knows** God is leading, directing your steps. God will give you peace to move forward or make a move. If not, stay. Wait on God's timing.

**Matt. 14:29-31** – “So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. “Save me, Lord!” he shouted. 31 Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him”

## 7 - Peter sank when He took His **eyes off** Jesus.

- He became afraid when He saw His circumstances.
  - o The enemy will distract us, try to stop us. Enemy wants us to sink.
  - o **Keep your eyes on Jesus**. He wants you walking on water.

## 8 – When Peter cried out “save me,” Jesus immediately responded.

- God is there to save us, too.
  - o He saves us even when our problems are of our own making.
- He lifts us back up. He gets us where we need to be.
- **Psalm 66:9** – *God is the one who “keeps us alive and does not allow our feet to slip.”*

## 9 – Jesus said, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”

- Was that fair? **Peter - only one** to get out of the boat.
  - o God isn't comparing us to others. He knows us.
  - o He is wanting to **build faith** in us . . . why? **1** - so we live in peace.
    - **2** – for Peter to do great things, he needed faith in Jesus.
      - Nothing we do is b/c of us . . . it's b/c of Jesus.

**10** – One more miracle – they get in the boat, wind stops.

- Lightbulb moment: “Surely you are the Son of God” & they worship Jesus.
  - **Mark** says they were Completely Amazed. 5000 miracle – missed it.
    - Over & over Jesus showed who He was - so they’d have faith

Their **boat** was being **blown** by the wind; they’re **afraid**; they’re **straining** at the oars . . . not making **progress**. They go **off-course**, land in Genneseret.

- At no time did they pray, cry out to God . . . just rowing.
- They are a perfect **example** of what James says:
  - **James 1:5-6** – “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.”
  - **Faith** knows God will guide your decisions when you ask.
  - You won’t feel **tossed about** . . . but can walk in confidence . . . you just have to **keep your eyes on Jesus**.

LISTEN TO MY VOICE. **David Gibbs**. Ellucian Islands . . . Anchorage, then home.

Anchorage Emergency maybe can help & save your life.

Obey my voice. You can’t see me, but I can see you.

Other pilots – Listen to the Voice. (you’ll hear others).

Lights ... in form of a cross. The Cross will get you home.

Listen to my voice. Bible: My sheep hear my Voice & they follow me.

People crash & burn every day... don’t listen to the Voice.

Don’t watch the storm . . . keep your eyes on Jesus. Listen.

Song/week - “Oceans” – by Hillsong United