

God With Us

A Study of Matthew: "The King Walks on Water"

Matthew 14:22-36

"And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear." (Matthew 14:25-26)

I. Lessons on Faith (Jesus Knows and Cares)

- a. Are you aware of the fact that Jesus **knows** your every need? There is no situation in and around your life that escapes God's wisdom, authority and power.
- b. Notice in John 6:14-15, Jesus **knew** the peoples' hearts were not aligned with God's will, so told the disciples to get into the boat and moved away from the crowd.
- c. Jesus **knew** that a large storm would come, so great that it would challenge even the most experienced fisherman that were in the boat.
- d. Although Jesus was not physically in the boat, He was spiritually present with His disciples. We must remember that Jesus is not physically with us yet we are never alone in any circumstance.

II. A Lesson on Unbelief

- a. This is the second time Jesus encounters the disciples trembling in fear in middle of a storm. The first time, Matthew 8:23-27, Jesus was in boat and He spoke to the sea.
- b. First time He was **with them in** the storm, and the second time He **came to them** in the storm.
- c. There were experienced fishermen on the boat. This must have been a tremendous storm for them to tremble in fear.
- d. Peter had supernatural faith to **move** and supernatural faith to **stand**. But when he balanced the reality of the natural waves, the winds and the screams from the boat, and his own inability to stand on water, the **natural reality** took precedence over the **supernatural possibility**.
- e. Jesus called Peter onto the water, not you or me or the other disciples. What may have been impossible for some, was not impossible for Peter.
 1. The Lord may call you to do the impossible, to grow your faith in the supernatural possibilities.
 2. Regardless of what is going on around you, God will not let you fail at what He has called you *out* to do as long as you trust Him.
 3. God rewards risk takers for His glory. Peter took a risk and shared the experience, although it was brief time of walking on the water. No other man has accomplished this in history.
- f. As Christians, we are faced daily with the natural realities of life: sickness, death, rejections.
- g. The storms are real. The storms of life often overwhelm us causing fear and doubt.
- h. But in our "overcomers toolkit" we have supernatural possibilities. With God **all things are possible!**
 1. Toolkit knowledge: He brought me here. He will help me grow. He will see me through.

III. Practical Wisdom for God's Practical People

- a. Are you allowing Jesus to work His supernatural possibilities in your natural realities?
- b. In every natural reality there is a supernatural possibility. Are we taking the necessary risks to step into a supernatural possibility?
- c. Have you asked Jesus, "Lord, there is a mess all around me and I don't like it. Lord, call me deeper into this natural reality (the mess) that I may experience Your glory."
- d. God will call you out if you ask Him. Have you walked in total dependency on Christ?
- e. God desires to do far more than when ask or think. The disciples just wanted be saved, but Peter asked, walked on the water and was saved. Jesus saves! Jesus knows! Jesus cares!