

WALKING ON WATER

Text: Matthew 14:22-33

I. THE _____ TO FAITH (vs. 22-24)

A. The Problem of the Disciples

- Their boat was opposed by _____ and afflicted by waves.

B. The Purpose of the Master

- Vs. 22, Jesus “constrained” His disciples = He _____ them go.
- Vs. 23-24, Jesus stayed behind, also on purpose.
- Jesus had some specific teaching objectives in mind:
 - He wanted them to understand that He is the _____ of God.
 - He also wanted to develop their _____ in Him as God.
- Jesus had revealed Himself as the Maker of the universe when He fed the 5,000; now He would reveal Himself as the _____ of the universe.

II. THE _____ TO FAITH (vs. 25-29)

A. The Proclamation of God

- “It is I” = *ego eimi* = “I _____,” the divine name of Jehovah God (John 8:58).

B. The Proposal of Peter

- “Lord, since it’s you, _____ me to come to you on the water!”
- His request was ambitious, but it glorified God.

C. The Permission of Jesus

- Vs. 29, “Come!”
 - God is always looking for opportunities to _____ faith.
- Application 1: God sends trials so we can know Him better by personally _____ His promises and faithfulness.
- Application 2: God will also call us at other times to “step out of the boat”:
 - **Calls to** _____
 - **Calls to** _____
 - **Calls to walk in the path of God’s** _____
 - **Calls to risk-taking** _____
- The whole Christian life is about _____ out of the boat in faith.

III. THE _____ OF FAITH (vs. 30-33)

A. The _____ for Stepping out by Faith

- Vs. 30, Peter “saw the wind boisterous, and began to fear.”
 - He took his eyes off _____ to look at the winds and waves.
- Application: If you start looking at the waves, you’re going to be afraid, just like Peter (Philip. 4:13, 2 Cor. 12:9, Ps. 94:17-18).

B. The _____ That Inhibits Stepping out by Faith

- The fear of _____ is why many of us will never dare to step out of the boat in the first place to attempt new and bigger things for God.
- But if God calls us to get out of the boat, He’ll keep us _____. If He says, “Come,” He will enable us to come.

C. The _____ That Upholds our Steps of Faith

- Vs. 30, “_____ to sink” = Peter either sank slowly or only part-way.
 - Peter panicked because his perspective was, “I’m sinking”; but the reality of physics was that the Lord was still _____ Him up.
- Application: The Lord Jesus will never let you go!
 - In hand of Jesus, you as a child of God will always stand far _____ the misery and hopelessness of a world that is lost and far from God (Ps. 18:32-33).
- Vs. 31: Jesus grabbed Peter in a mighty grip and rebuked him, not sternly but _____: “Little faith, why did you doubt?”
 - The purpose of this learning experience was to train Peter’s faith and teach him to keep His _____ on the Lord even in the midst of the winds and waves.
- A life of faith is a life of _____ to Jesus, whether the water is calm or winds are blowing strong.
 - A. W. Tozer defines faith as “*the continuous _____ of the soul upon a saving God.*”

CONCLUSION

- Question 1: Is the Lord calling you to _____ out of the boat, or take some new step of greater faith?
- Question 2: If being battered right now by the winds and waves of adversity, will you keep your _____ on the Lord?