

MATTHEW 14:22-33

PETER WALKS ON THE WATER

- OPENING— So we're continuing with our summer series JESUS IN GALILEE, and if you were here last week you'll recall Matthew preaching on the feeding of the 5000, which perfectly sets the stage for what we're gonna be looking at today. We're gonna be in Matthew 14:22-33, (page ... in the pew Bible) looking at the account of Jesus and Peter walking on water.
 - As you're turning there, let's pause and ask the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds to the truth of His Word as we study it together.
 - INTRO— Anybody here almost drowned before? Isn't that one of the most terrifying panic inducing experiences you've ever had!? I've had 3 incidents where I almost drowned. Once when I was a very young boy when I fell into a pool trying to get a football that rolled in. And then two other times as a young adult.
 - Well the story we're gonna look at involves a group of men, most of which have spent a good majority of time out on the water, in a situation that they feared could result in them all drowning.
 - So as we pick up the story here in Matthew 14:22-33, we're gonna see that the disciples are gonna face a storm.
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- (Read passage)

 - We're gonna break this down and see what God wants us to learn, so that we can apply these principles to our lives to become more convinced and committed to the work God is doing in our lives, so that we will be more impactful and more Christlike.
 - B/C that's what we all want right? To be more like Christ, to be an impact on the world around us.
 - **Matthew 5:16 Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.**
 - So in everything we do, we should be asking ourselves
 - **AM I GLORIFYING AND HONORING GOD WITH WHAT I'M DOING?**

- 1 Corinthians 10:31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God.
- If you call yourself a Christian, this should be your goal in life; to bring glory to God— and you do that largely in part by how you handle the storms and trials in life. People are watching you, and they wanna know how you made it through with such peace and joy.
- And the reason we want to understand God’s Word better is to help us better live this out in our daily lives.
- Cause let’s all face it... it’s not easy to do this. And God did not create us with the ability to accomplish this in our own strength. We need HIM
- So let’s dive in and see what we can learn from this story.

*the first thing we see in verse 22 is that...

*****JESUS SENDS US INTO STORMS.**

- V.22 Jesus (read), knowing full well what will happen out on the water, tells the disciples to get in the boat and go to the other side while He dismisses the crowd.
- Now that may seem sick and twisted for Him to do, but we’ll see how this event profoundly impacted the disciples and strengthened their faith and trust in Jesus.
- Jesus knew they needed this storm experience
- So let’s look at 4 main reasons why Jesus led them into the storm
- And let’s face it, we are ALL gonna experience storms and challenges in our life
- ** and if we don’t have a strong faith in the sovereign goodness of God, it’s gonna be very easy to loose faith and trust in Christ.

**# 1

*****1. STORMS REFOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON CHRIST.**

- Not only that, but they get us focused on HIS agenda, not ours
- We see in John’s account of this incident why Jesus had to refocus the disciples attention and commanded the them to immediately get into the boat and head to the other side.

- When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself. John 6:14-15
- The people had an agenda, but Jesus was not conforming to what they thought was best for everyone
- Like pastor Matthew said last week, the crowd was following Jesus because of what he was giving them, not because they desired to give their lives to Him in full submission and service. They were looking for a meal ticket
- Imagine if you were one of the disciples and everyone is talking and plotting to take Jesus and make him king.
- The disciples were probably thinking "Sweet, we're gonna be right there along side Jesus as He reigns as king!" But that's not what the Lord's plan was. He had a much different path for all of them and himself, and it didn't include prosperity and an easy life.
- And the journey that they were on that very moment was gonna help get their focus and attention back on Jesus and His plans, not only for His life, but also for theirs.
- Think about the trials and storms that you've gone through in your live.
- Have they not been hugely influential in your spiritual growth and trust in God? Did they not get your attention and focus back on Christ?
- OR, maybe they might have had the opposite effect, maybe they caused you to turn away from a the Lord and loose faith in His sovereign goodness.
- We all know people like that right? A storm hits them and instead of focusing on what God is wanting to do to them through the storm. They bail and do what they think will get them out of the trial and difficulty.
- So often, the very thing that God wants to use to strengthen our faith and deepen our understanding of His goodness, is the very thing that we try so desperately to get out of with as little pain and inconvenience as possible.
- You see, it's very easy to get focused on the wrong things and loose sight of what God wants accomplish in our lives
- God uses storms to refocus our attention on Him

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***2. STORMS HUMBLE US.

- When storms hit us, we realize we're not in control of our lives like we'd like to be.
- V.24 the boat was a long way from land and was beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them.
- Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshipped. And he said, "naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord." In all of this, Job did not sin or charge God with wrong. Job 1:20-22
- Here's a guy that you would think has every good reason want to turn from God. I'm mean seriously! Everything is taken from him in an instant.
- But what humility he displayed as he understood that God is sovereign over everything
- The Lord gives and the Lord takes away, what a Kingdom perspective
- We like "the Lord gives" part of this verse, and I think a some people focus to much on that part and look at God as a god that is here to serve them and make their lives easier.
- The disciples were most likely anticipating a lavished lifestyle as they served alongside Jesus as king, but Jesus used this storm on the sea to bring them all back into proper alignment with HIS plans.
- Has God humbled you through a storm?
- Or, maybe God I'd trying to humble you in other ways?
- Maybe it's through a struggle with our sin nature; we think we have it under control, and then WHAMOO! It rears it's ugly head and we feel defeated
- When I sin in an area that I've been consciously working on, its discouraging and humbling.
- It brings me to a place of recognizing that I can't do this on my own, and that I need the Lord's help daily in order to live a righteous life.
- Can you relate? Is there a sin in your life that you struggle to get victory in?
- Paul uses this same tactic when he writes to the church of Corinth in 2 Corinthians 7:8-10

- Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while — yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in anyway by us. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. 2 Corinthians 7:8-10
- And then Paul goes on to list all the things that this godly sorrow produced in them that were brought about because of this letter that initially hurt them
- As a parent you understand this full well right; you discipline your children which is painful for them momentarily, but the results are an obedient child that understands that they can't just do whatever feels right by them
- So what else does God use these storms for?

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*****3. STORMS CAUSE US TO BE PATIENT AND PERSEVERE.**

- (Sarcasm) I wonder if Mary and Joseph ever got impatient with Jesus, we'll some archeologists found this painting on a cave wall in Nazereth that I think answers that question
- **insert pic of "Baby Jesus at bath time" for 10 seconds
- Patience is probably something we all struggle with.
- We live in a world now where everything is immediate and at our finger tips. There's no more thought to delayed gratification,,,,, but we need to learn to wait on the Lord, and one way He helps us learn that principle is through storms.
- The disciples had to wait for God's plan to unfold in His timing. And meanwhile, patiently enduring the hardships of life.
- Easier said then done of course. And their current circumstances weren't making it easier either.
- V. 24-25, it's late, they had a full days work outside, they're surly exhausted, and now they're struggling to keep the boat afloat

- Have you noticed Jesus seems to wait till all hope is lost to show up and do a miracle?
- The story of Lazarus in John 11 is a perfect example; Jesus delayed His arrival 4 days— of course at that point Lazarus, they thought was long gone
- **Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.**
- **Romans 12:12 Be joyful in hope, patient in afflictions, faithful in prayer.**
- This doesn't come naturally does it?
- We need to ask the Lord to supernaturally give us the ability to patiently endure storms
- And it's not just about making it through the storm, no no no, it's about the change in you that the storm brings about
- Haven't we all experienced this? We can look back after going through a trial in our life and now see how that trial was the vehicle God used to do a mighty work of change in us?
- **James 1:2-4 Count it all joy, my brothers, when meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything**
- I love this quote ...
- **"The will must precede the emotions." -C.S. Lewis**
- What this means and what these verses are saying is that we have a choice in how we're going to respond to all things in life.
- Are we gonna respond and react in our flesh? Or are we gonna trust that a God is giving us an opportunity to strengthen and deepen our faith and trust in him?
- We must choose to endure with a hopeful attitude, knowing that God is gonna do something to us that only this storm can bring about.
- Can you relate?

*****4. STORMS PRODUCE CHANGE.**

- There's many changes that these storm bring about, but let's just look at a couple key ones

- **Teach us not to be scared of the unknown because God is in perfect control** —V. 25-27
(read) they don't even recognize that it's Jesus coming towards them and they're freaking out
- The very thing that they're frightened by, is the very person who controls the universe
- Jesus tells them "Take heart; it is I. Don't be afraid."
- Considering what they're going through right now, that seems like an appropriate response right? Total fear; I mean they're already struggling against the wind and the wave, and oh great here comes a ghost.
- **Courage to step out in faith trusting Jesus to catch you and hold you up** —V. 28-30 (read)
granted, Peter is the only one that got out of the boat and walked on the water, but think about how this experience impacted the lives of the other disciples. All accept one, that is.
- I think my driving is pretty good, but I sometimes scare Cody and she asks me to stop driving in that way
- The big difference is! I'm not all knowing and all powerful. As good of a driver as I might think I am, she has every reason to be scared
- **Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all of your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make straight your paths.**
- **Better understanding of God's power** -Jesus comes to them walking on the water; and I'm sure every step He took was calm and balanced, unlike us trying to balance on a foam board
- Jesus has power over the wind and the waves. No one else can claim that except God, and the disciples knew that.
- In John chapter 11 as I mentioned before, we see the story of Lazarus, and how Jesus demonstrates His power over death. And I love what Jesus says here, because it sums up so well

- John 11-4 “This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of Man may be glorified through it.”
- Which leads us to our final change...
- **A heart of Worship toward God** —V.33 (read) all throughout the Bible we see that the people’s response to Jesus saving them or healing them is worship