

Sunday, May 29, 2022
JUST GIVE ME JESUS
PART 14: WALKING ON WATER

Ready to follow Jesus on another adventure?

MATTHEW 14:22-33 (NIV)

Every time the disciples get into a boat, it is lesson time. You might say – it is revelation time. First time was the miracle of the fish. The second time was the stilling of the storm. After feeding the 5000, Jesus “made” His disciples get into the boat to “go to the other side”. This time, He doesn’t go with them – He stays behind to pray. On the way to the “other side”, a strong wind arises that makes sailing difficult. This time, there is no Jesus in the boat to bring reassurance or to cry to. It appears the disciples are on their own. It is dark. It is rough. They are still a good distance from their destination. Where is Jesus?

Anyone on a similar journey? It is the 4th watch of the night: after 3am. Suddenly, Jesus appears in another boat? He helicopters in? Jesus appears walking on the water! The disciple’s response? Terror. *Jesus came to them in a way they had never seen before.* Are you prepared for Jesus to come to you like He has never done before?

Jesus immediately says: “Take courage. It is I. Don’t be afraid.” “It is I” is the same phrase as:

I AM

Here comes Jesus – walking on their obstacle – making better time than they are – and introducing Himself to them as God! Everyone shout: “The I AM is here!” Same phrase is used in the Garden of Gethsemane when Jesus knocks the soldiers down with the power of the statement. Peter’s question models how we all should respond to such a revelation: *“Lord, if it’s You, tell me to come to you!”* Wait a minute! What was happening in the boat was difficult – now, should we take an impossible step?

Jesus calls His disciples from the difficult to the impossible.

Come! Jesus said. How many of you want Jesus to do the impossible through you? The first step Peter took was impossible – so he should be okay the rest of the way. But, Peter begins to look around.

When you get your eyes off Jesus and look around, circumstances will steal your faith.

Peter begins to sink. He cries to Jesus, "Lord, save me!" Immediately, Jesus reaches out and saves him. Thank God for His mercy. The problem? *When circumstances appear overwhelming, it is the result of doubt.* As they reach the boat, the storm dies down. John's account says that they were immediately at their destination. The result? They worshiped Him with these words:

"Truly, You are the Son of God."

Jesus is leading us from doing nothing for Him, to walking through difficulty for Him, to doing the impossible in Him.

Today's Scriptures:

- Matthew 14:22-33 (NIV)