

**Introduction:**

- Read Matthew 14:20-33. This is a great story!
- When you follow Jesus He will do great things through you. He wants to give you a great story.
- Why are we contending for revival, here at Freedom Christian Center?
  - Revival produces stories!
  - And the stories make Jesus famous in a community, city, or state.
  - The reason we have testimonies is that they are stories of what God is doing. People remember stories, and our stories center on God. Isn't that what the OT and NT are—stories that center around God?
- For contexts sake: I think you have to include the feeding of the 5K with Peter walking on the water. The climax being vs. 33 *"Truly you are the Son of God!"* That's the message!
  - 12 baskets left over. One for each disciple. God will take care of you.
  - 12 loaves made up the Bread of Presence in the temple.
- Lets extract some lessons from this portion of scripture

**I. First Lesson: Sometimes Jesus Makes Us Face Big Storms In The Dark vs 22**

- A. It is a set up for the disciples. God has a way of setting us up for victory if we will follow through. If a set up becomes a setback its temporary. Setbacks set us up to grow if you don't quit.
  1. They have worked all day with Jesus healing people.
  2. They finished the day by feeding 5K men plus women and children.
  3. They get into a boat and start to the other side.
  4. A storm hits and now they are rowing for hours out in the middle of the raging Sea of Galilee. Can you say very tired, stressed and adrenalin rush.
- B. Sometimes Jesus makes us face big storms, in the dark, a long ways away from shore.
  1. I believe that Jesus knew this storm was coming and He sends His disciples out into anyway. Just to show them that He is God of the impossible.
    - a) This storm is on the job training for the 12!
    - b) Mark 6:48 He sees them struggle and then leaves to go to them. Jesus sees you in the storms of life!
    - c) He wants them to get to the place in life where they trust Him...even in the storm.
  2. I also believe that the devil was out to kill them, too. We have not seen this kind of action since Mt 8:23. In fact it is almost a repeat of Mt 8 except Jesus was not in the boat. *"You of little faith"* is the common denominator between the two.
  3. Sometimes Jesus makes us face big storms to reveal that He is a bigger God.
    - a) *"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for*

- those who are called according to his purpose.*" (Romans 8:28, ESV)
- b) The challenge of that verse is—what if you can't find the 'good'? If you can't find good, look for God!

## II. Second Lesson: Peace Is Not Found In The Absence of Storms But In The Presence Of Jesus vs 27

- A. Jesus comes walking to them on the water. They think it is a ghost.
1. Sometimes Jesus comes to us in unexpected times and unexpected ways.
  2. They are terrified and crying out in fear.
  3. He is there and the storm is still raging! And Jesus does not calm it. What is He after?
- B. *"But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."*" (Mt 14:27, ESV)
1. He is after them learning to change their atmosphere (no pun intended) from fear to faith based on the Presence!
  2. *"No need to fear, I AM is here!"*
  3. In chapter 8 Jesus asks, *"Why are you afraid?"* Again, He is telling them to not be afraid. When you are in fear you are no longer in the place of faith. Jesus, in telling them to not be afraid, is now leading them into the place of faith...where all things become possible. Watch what happens next?
- C. Now Peter says something really outstanding, *"Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."* Matthew 14:28
1. Jesus now invites Peter even deeper into the storm! *"Come."*
  2. We think peace is when the waves are calm and the wind is no longer raging. But peace is found in the Presence. This is an invaluable lesson to learn!
  3. You are in revival when you are experiencing the presence of God on a regular basis. Revival is simply increased presence of God in your life, church and community.
  4. Peter is now being moved by faith based on the Presence of Jesus and the Word of God! *"Come!"*

## III. Third Lesson: Faith Requires That We Get Out Of The Boat

- A. Faith will always involve risk.
- B. Fear will always be your enemy when you step out in faith.
- C. Peter had a word, "Come."
1. He is not moving out of presumption to walk on water/do the impossible.
  2. I find his prayer quite accurate and intentional...Command me to come. He is not stepping out on mere excitement to see Jesus. He has heard the voice and found a place of peace so he steps out into the storm!

**IV. Fourth Lesson: When You Are Doing The Impossible, Keep Your Eyes On Jesus** vs 30

- A. *"But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me.""* (Matthew 14:30, ESV)
1. When he saw the wind and waves, he was afraid. Question: Did he not see the wind and waves before he got out of the boat?
  2. He did, but now his vision was set on Jesus and what He had just said, "Come."
- B. When you take your eyes off Jesus, while doing the impossible, you will start to sink!
1. And if you leave them off of Him the storm will swallow you.
  2. It is important to note that Peter did not sink, he started to sink. This start to 'sink' moment was crucial because it got Peter refocused.
  3. In his trouble he cried out, "Lord, save me!"
  4. Jesus honors Peter's faith. Reaches out His hand and caught him and they walked back to the boat.

**V. Fifth Lesson: When The Storm/Lesson Is Over, It Is Time To Worship** vs 33

- A. When Jesus was in the boat the storm died! Lesson over: What did we learn?
1. When you have revelation of God and who He is, you will worship.
    - a) When the Presence is in the song or in the sermon, we are experiencing a revelation God. Worship becomes the response.
    - b) When God reveals Himself to us we worship!
    - c) When God delivers us, we worship!
  2. So what did we learn?
    - a) Truly Jesus is the Son of God! That is the message!
    - b) He is not only the Bread of Life but He is the Bread of Presence

**Conclusion:**

- On day six of the ill-fated mission of Apollo 13, the astronauts needed to make a critical course correction. If they failed, they might never return to Earth. To conserve power, they shut down the onboard computer that steered the craft. Yet the astronauts needed to conduct a thirty-nine-second burn of the main engines. With no computer to guide them, they needed to come up with a way to stay on course during the burn. Astronaut Jim Lovell determined that if they could keep a fixed point in space in view through their tiny window, they could steer the craft manually. That focal point turned out to be their destination—Earth. As shown in 1995's hit movie, *Apollo 13*, for thirty-nine agonizing seconds, Lovell focused on keeping the earth in view. By not losing sight of that reference point, the three astronauts avoided disaster. Sermon illustrator
- To get through the storms of life successfully we must fix our eyes on Jesus.
- His presence will get us through the storm.