

Introduction:

- Last week's message. Miracles happen because of faith. Miracles happen when we are desperate for God. Miracles happen because we fight for them.
- *Illustration:* A magician was working on a cruise ship in the Caribbean. The audience would be different each week, so the magician felt free to do the same tricks over and over again. There was only one problem – the captain's parrot saw the shows each week and began 'parroting' the magician's secrets. In the middle of the show he would blurt out, "Look, it's not the same hat." "Look, he is hiding the flowers under the table." "Hey, why are all the cards the Ace of Spades?"
- The magician was furious but couldn't do anything. After all, it was the captain's parrot. One stormy day the ship sank. The magician found himself adrift on a piece of wood in the middle of the ocean... of course, the parrot was adrift on this very same piece of wood with him. They stared at each other with hate, but did not utter a word. This went on for a day, then another, and then another. After almost three days the parrot finally said, "OK, I give up. Where's the boat?" **APPLICATION:** Let me ask you, Do you walk through life with a cynical attitude about issues of faith? Are you certain that everything can be explained without the need to believe in miracles or in a God who performs them? Maybe you've run into your share of hypocrites and so you've dismissed religion altogether. But perhaps, just like the parrot, you've connected the wrong dots.
- Mt 14:22-33 *"Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone. Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves."* (Matthew 14:22-24, NLT)
- In life storms are certain, why not miracles? A miracles are: "Events that are totally out of the ordinary and that cannot be adequately explained on the basis of natural occurrences, such as those associated with the ministry of Jesus Christ. They are seen as evidence of the presence and power of God in the world or as demonstrating authority on the part of one of his servants. Manser, M. H. (2009). Dictionary of Bible Themes: The Accessible and Comprehensive Tool for Topical Studies. London: Martin Manser.

- I. Why No Miracles?** I want to ask this question first to so we can do a bit of assessment of our spiritual life regarding miracles. Why do we not see more miracles? Five reasons:
- One, we do not expect them. We just do not look for them. I asked you last week to make a list of places you could use to receive a miracle in. This week make a list of places that a miracle could occur. IE. Pastor Craig and I men who pray over our vehicles on a regular basis. Pastor Craigs Truck: Bought new in 1994, drove it 24 years, 220,000 miles and \$500
 - Two, we explain them away when they do happen. Should ask yourself "Why do I do that?"
 - Three, people reject miracles. "People reject miracles, not because they have critically analyzed the evidence for and against them and consciously decided that miracles are impossible, but because our culture *assumes* the impossibility of miracles, and this assumption has become part of the essential character of our modern world view." Story, D. (1997). *Defending Your Faith* (pp. 155-156). Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications.
 - Four, we reject God. Miracles depend on the existence of God who is active in His creation. Naturalism rejects the idea of God. The majority of Western science societies have no belief in

God. Therefore, miracles get defined out of existence. Education has created a prevailing world view that assumes miracles are impossible. (Again we are back at the place of unbelief. Like the Pharisees were in.

- E. Five, we lack faith for them. This really is the 'bottom' line total answer.
1. Jesus could do few miracles in His hometown of Nazareth. *"And so he did only a few miracles there because of their unbelief."* (Matthew 13:58, NLT) They were familiar with Jesus but did not believe. Many Christians are familiar with the faith, familiar with the Word, familiar with Jesus but they do not believe.
 2. Disciples could not cast out the demon in the young man. Jesus was very direct in His answer. *"**You don't have enough faith,**" Jesus told them. "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible."* (Matthew 17:20, NLT)
 3. People want to see a miracle... to believe in miracles. But the Biblical answer is, unless you believe you will not see. Faith precedes miracles! So, how do we get there? Let's look at our text.

II. Jesus Says, Get In The Boat

- A. We are talking about the storms of life here. Storms usually surprise you. Or they do not surprise you but you can see them coming and there is nothing you can do about it. And, as in most storms, you are not ready for them and you need a miracle!
- B. Jonah got himself into such a storm. Jonah did it to himself by disobeying God.
 1. Jonah got in a boat because he was running from God. Found himself in a storm. Got thrown out of the boat because he was disobeying God. In the ocean...
 2. He feared for his life!
 - a) When you are feeling guilty and a storm comes, you will feel condemned, and think to yourself, "I brought this on myself." Then you will think, "I do not deserve a miracle. Why would God help me?" You will have to clear the debris of sin before you can believe.
 - b) Miracles happen in an atmosphere of faith, when we are desperate, and when we contend for the faith.
 3. We know Jonah had faith because he started talking to God. We know he had faith because in his state of desperation he started repenting. Shortly thereafter he finds himself on the beach with seaweed wrapped around his head.
- C. If you are going to experience miracles you have to get into the boat. This was Jesus' direction.
 1. *"Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home."* (Matthew 14:22, NLT)
 - a) ἀναγκάσεν - to compel, to insist, to be under compulsion. Jesus asked them to get into the boat and they did not want to get in the boat.
 - b) Jesus had to insist that they get into the boat and cross over to the other side. They did not want to. Why? Maybe they did not want to leave Jesus. Maybe they felt He really needed them. I kind of lean into this one: Most of them were fishermen and they knew what it was like to get caught in a storm on the Sea of Galilee at night.

- c) Let me make a point: ***When you obey God, and you find yourself in a storm, know that He will get you out or through it. ***When you are in a storm you can't look at circumstances to tell if you are in God's will. Storms all look the same!
- 2. When you are obeying God, and a storm comes, know that you are about to run into a miracle! In the center of God's will is where you can expect to see the miraculous!
 - a) Jonah disobeyed and ran into a storm. It wasn't until he repented and obeyed that he got his miracle.
 - b) The disciples obey God and still found himself in a storm. When you obey God, and are in the center of His will and you find yourself in the midst of a storm...You will run into Jesus! It is wrong to think you have missed God when you have problems. When you know you are in His will, you have an opportunity!
- 3. Everyone who gets into the boat at the Lord's leading will one day run into a storm. BUT: IF HE INSISTS YOU GET INTO THE BOAT, WHEN THE STORM COMES, YOU WILL RUN INTO JESUS! The same Jesus you run into in the storm is also the same Jesus who now says...Get out of the boat!

III. Jesus Now Says, Get Out Of The Boat

- A. *"But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!" Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water." "Yes, come," Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus." (Matthew 14:27-29, NLT) ***You have to be willing to get out of the boat if you are going to walk on water. As long as you can live without a miracle you will.*
- B. Peter steps out in faith. Let's pause here a moment in this story and talk about faith.
 - 1. We learned last week that everyone has been given a measure of faith from God (Romans 12:3). We all have been given enough faith to believe to get saved. That is the greatest miracle of all.
 - 2. Faith gives us access to everything that God has! This is why it is so important for us to believe in God and not just be familiar with Him. Faith gives you access to God and all that God offers us in the new birth.
 - a) *"Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege (grace NKJV) where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory." (Romans 5:2, NLT)*
 - b) προσάγωγην - prosagein - access, to come close, to gain admission. Our faith is what lets us have admission to God, God's realm, the Kingdom.
 - c) We live in a world where our 5 senses function quite well. But there is another dimension, reality that we have access to by faith. When we operate in faith we are acknowledging things that exist in a spiritual realm. We can't see them but they are there. To walk in faith you have to recognize the unseen world. Ie. The angel who showed me the room full of beating hearts. Faith is seeing spiritual reality and not just physical reality. *"Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see."* (Hebrews 11:1, NLT) Faith is the reality and the evidence of what we hope for.
- C. Faith is what allows us to access that which is outside our sense realm. *"Then Jesus said to the disciples, "Have faith in God. I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, 'May you be lifted*

*up and thrown into the sea,' and it will happen. **But you must really believe it** will happen and have no doubt in your heart. I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, **it will be yours.**" (Mark 11:22-24, NLT)*

1. You have to believe before you receive. That is why Jesus did not start with say to the mountain and then faith would come. He said Believe! Then you can say.
2. You have to believe before you can speak with mountain moving authority.
3. When you really believe when you speak to your mountain, it will be yours! Jesus' words, not mine.

D. Faith caused Peter to step out of the boat. Jesus spoke to him, "Come!"

IV. Jesus Says, Let's Get Back In The Boat

A. *"But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted. Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?" When **they** climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. Then the disciples worshiped him. "You really are the Son of God!" they exclaimed." (Matthew 14:30-33, NLT)*

1. Peter stepped out in faith in response to the Word of the Lord, "Come"
2. When he started looking at the storm instead of the Lord he *"began to sink"* So we can learn something here. You can start in faith and then move into doubt and start to sink. But if you will remember that God is with you and cry out! (miracles happen in a realm of faith, desperation and fighting for miracles.) He desires you to succeed and will answer!
3. Jesus reached out and grabbed him.
4. Again, lets look at what Jesus said, *"You have little faith", "Why did you doubt me?"*

B. Yet they walked back to the boat together and climbed back in together.

C. The disciples worshipped Him!

Conclusion:

- Are you positioned to be supernatural?
- If your life is not supernatural it is superficial!
- Don't wait for a storm to hit to learn how to believe for a miracle. Learn now and it will be second nature to you. You wont hav to fight your emotions if you already have leaned to believe for miracles.