

Matthew 14:24-33 Walking on the Water

Introduction: After feeding the multitude with five loaves and two fishes Jesus sent the disciples away and the multitudes away and He went up into a mountain to pray. In the meantime His disciples got caught in a storm.

I. The disciples in the storm, Verse 24.

- A. They were out in the middle of the sea caught in a storm.
(If middle means halfway across, then they were about four or five miles out to sea.)
- B. On a previous occasion they had been afraid when in a storm and awoke Jesus saying, "Master, save us, we perish."
- C. Since they had been afraid when Jesus was with them, I am sure they were now afraid with Jesus not with them.

II. Jesus coming to them.

- A. Somewhere between 3:00 and 6:00 A.M. Jesus came to them, walking on the water, verse 25.
- B. The disciples just couldn't believe it. They thought they saw a spirit (an apparition, a vision, a sign, an omen of approaching catastrophe) verse 26. (What would you think?)
- C. Pandemonium broke loose, verse 26.

III. Comforting words of Jesus, Verse 27.

- A. They saw Him and it looked like Jesus.
- B. Now they heard Him and recognized His voice.
- C. Jesus said, "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid,"
(There is no need of being afraid when Jesus is near.)

IV. Peter's request.

- A. Peter said, "If it is really you, Lord, bid me to come to you," verse 28. (He really was not thinking clearly. What if he said, "Come," and then it turned out not to be the Lord?)
- B. Jesus said, "Come," verse 29.
- C. Peter hopped right out of that boat and into the waves.
(That is where they separated the men from the boys. I would have stayed in the boat.)
- D. Peter then started out across the water toward Jesus.

V. Peter's lack of faith.

- A. Peter made it fine while He looked straight at Jesus.
- B. Then he looked around, verse 30.
 - 1. The wind was blowing hard, the waves were high, and there was not a solid place to put his foot.
 - 2. He must have thought, "What in the world am I doing out here?"
- C. But give Peter credit. He knew who to call on for help when he got into trouble.
(I wish everybody knew that.)

VI. The Lord's power to save.

- A. Jesus reached out and immediately lifted him up and stood him on top of the water again, verse 31.
- B. It was after Jesus rescued Peter that He rebuked him, verse 31.
- C. Then Jesus walked him back to the boat and calmed the storm, verse 32.
- D. The disciples said, "Of a truth thou are the Son of God," verse 33. (This is the punch line.)

Conclusion:

1. Are you struggling with your own guilt of sin and see that it is impossible to row safely to the shore. I have good news for you. Jesus of a truth is the Son of God and He is able to save.
2. Are you saved and yet devastated by the storms of life. Jesus is the Son of the living God. He is able to help you in your time of need. He is able to lift you up when you are sinking down. Look to Jesus and trust in Him.

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