

Matthew 14:22-36

An Early Morning Walk On The Water

- 1) (Matthew 14:22) Jesus sends disciples out ahead of Him, knowing they were heading for a storm
 - A) Many times Jesus has, and will again, send Christians out knowing a storm lies ahead
 - B) Jesus tells us we will be persecuted for His name's sake

*"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you,
and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.*

(Matthew 24:9)
- 1) Millions have died for Jesus throughout Church History
 - (a) Book of the martyrs lists many
 - (b) Most have never received recognition by men
- 2) But GOD knows them all, and their names are in the "Book of Life"

And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

(Romans 20:12-13)
- 3) Paul was told HE must suffer many things for Christ

"For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."

(Acts 9:16)
- 4) True to Christ' word Paul did, his 2nd letter to the Corinthians lists those sufferings

*In labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently,
in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one.
Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was
shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in
perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of
the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea,
in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in
hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness— besides the other
things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.*

(2 Corinthians 11:23-28)
- 2) (Matthew 14:23) Jesus then sent the crowd away and goes off to be alone with His Father in prayer
 - A) Second time in this chapter we read that Jesus went off alone
 - 1) After he heard of John the Baptist's execution
 - 2) Now after he fed the 5,000, and the people tried to make him king
 - B) We often times read that Jesus went off alone to commune with His FATHER
 - 1) A lesson we should all respect and practice
 - 2) You may have heard the phrase, "Prayer Closet"
 - (a) To me, it's a place or time

- (i) To be alone with GOD
 - (ii) Where no one will interfere with you as you commune with HIM
- 3) Blaise Pascal, the French mathematician and theologian noted once (1623-1662)
- “All of humanity’s problems stem from man’s inability to sit quietly in a room alone.”*
- 4) I am the type of person who needs a special place for GOD and me to connect
- 5) Thus the reason I enjoy my morning quiet time in the Word
- 3) (Matthew 14:24-33) The disciples and their boat was a long way from land on the Sea of Galilee
- A) We learn from John 6:19 that the disciples were 30 furlongs out on the Sea
- 1) Greek furlong is 300 feet = 91.44 meters
 - (a) 30 furlongs = 18,000 feet = 548.64 meters
 - 2) 1 mile equals 520 feet = 158.49 meters
 - (a) 30 furlongs equals 3.4 mile = 5.47 Kilometers
- B) Sea of Galilee, is also known as the Lake of Gennesaret
- 1) It’s (14 by 7 miles) or (22.53 by 11.27 kilometers)
 - 2) The disciple were about in the middle of the Sea
- C) It was late when the began eating, it was real late when they started out on their boat
- 1) They end up struggling against a strong wind for many hours
 - (a) From Mark’s Gospel (6:30-32) we read the disciples just returned from being sent out by twos and they were telling Jesus all about the things they did
 - (i) Jesus told them to rest and get a bite to eat
 - (ii) This is when the multitudes showed up
 - (iii) (Mark 6:3) tells us they didn’t even have time to eat
 - 2) That is when they spent the rest of the afternoon being waiters and busboys for 15,000 to 20,000 people
 - (a) Ever work at a restaurant on a busy Friday night?
 - (i) By the time a breakfast, lunch or dinner rush is over you are exhausted
 - (b) Maybe you had to spend a few hours tossing bails of hay
 - (c) What if you then had to row a boat in a lake, during a storm for 6 hours?
 - 3) So after serving 20,000 people they have to try and row against the wind in a storm
 - (a) Their arms must have been very weak.
- D) That’s when jesus sees them out in the lake, struggling to make headway one way or the other but unable to go anywhere
- 1) Finally around 4 or 5 early in the morning they see a ghost walking across their path
 - 2) They cried out in fear, but Jesus tells them

“Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.”

(Matthew 4:27)
- 3) Peter asks Jesus to allow him to join HIM
- (a) Much has been said about Peter’s faults, but he is the only one to step out of the comfort of the boat and into the storm to be with Jesus
 - (i) Have you ever been struggling to get something accomplished, and Jesus comes along and you are called into action?
 - (ii) It should bring to mind the time Jesus called James and John
 - (a) They were mending the nets and Jesus called them

- (b) They dropped everything and followed him
- (c) When Jesus comes you better be ready to drop everything and go
- (d) Don't be the disciple who failed to follow Jesus (Luke 9:57:62)

"Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house."

(Luke 9:61)

- (e) Jesus told him

But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

(Luke 9:62)

- (f) Imagine how powerful this story would be if when they stepped out

But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." And they all answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command us to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when they had come down out of the boat, they walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when they saw that the wind was boisterous, they were afraid; and beginning to sink they cried out, saying, "Lord, save us!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hands and caught them all, and said to them, "O ye of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they all got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then they all came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

(Matthew 14:27-33 desired version)

- (b) That is what Jesus wants us all to do, step out in faith
- (c) Churches struggle, because few step out into the storm to follow Jesus
- (d) Time to follow Peter's lead and step out in faith for Jesus

- 4) Well, we know Peter took his eyes off Jesus and started to drown

- (a) Never take your eyes off Jesus, always remember, HE will not let you sink

- 5) The moment Jesus and Peter get into the boat the winds stop

- 6) After this miracle, they all worshiped HIM and proclaimed

"Truly You are the Son of God."

(Matthew 14:33)

- 4) (Matthew 14:34-36) So its like 6:00 or so in the morning, and they land in Gennesaret

- A) When those on shore recognised Jesus, they sent word to the surrounding area

- 1) People from all over Gennesaret started bringing their sick
- 2) They begged HIM to just let them touch the hem of His cloak
- 3) All who did were healed.

- B) It was in the area of country the woman with the bleeding problem was cured by *touching the hem of his garment*, and was commended for her faith (Matthew 9:20-22)

- 1) I'm going out in a limb here, but

- (a) I am guessing others knew of the woman's ordeal with her bleeding troubles

- (b) After all, it lasted 12 years, and she spent all her wealth looking for cures

- (c) She probably told them that all she had to do was touch his clothing

- (d) By doing so she was healed, everyone who knows her probably heard about it

- (e) They responded positively to her message about Jesus
- (f) Now they want their relatives and friends to experience the same miracle
- 2) This is what the Gospel is all about
- 3) Sharing what you experienced with others
- 4) Allow them to see in you the miracle Jesus performed
- 5) Bring them to Him, so they too can experience a life changing miracle in their life
- 6) So simple, it should bring to mind Numbers 21:4-9

- (a) We read that the children of Israel had grown discouraged and spoke out against Moses and God

Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread." So the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.

(Numbers 21:4-6)

- (b) The Israelites grew distraught over the affliction so they approached Moses, *Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people.*

(Numbers 21:7)

- (c) God would not remove the cause of their plight, Instead HE had Moses erect put a bronze serpent on a pole.

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live." So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

(Numbers 21:8-9)

- (d) All the Isaelites had to do was look upon the snake on the pole to be healed
- (e) All the people of Gennesaret had to do was touch the One who would one day hang on the pole, and they would be healed.