

Sunday School

Today's leader: Bro. Wil Carmon II

Church School Superintendent: Bro. Paul T.
Bennett

This Quarter:

Confident Hope

Today:

Matthew 14:22-33

Rescued from Doubt

My Humble Disclaimer

- Test my words against the Word!
- Read it & Think for yourself!

Background & Context

- Just after Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand (Matt. 14:13-21)
 - The disciples recently witnessed a miracle
- Parallel texts
 - Mark 6:45
 - John 6:16

Lesson Text: Matthew 14:22-33 (NIV)

Jesus Walks on the Water

22 Immediately Jesus **made** the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd.

23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray.

One of many places the Bible emphasises Jesus praying

Later that night, he was there alone,

24 and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

3-4 miles (John 6:19)

Lesson Text: Matthew 14:22-33 *(continued)*

25 Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.

26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in **fear**.

Lesson Text: Matthew 14:22-33 *(continued)*

27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. **Don't be afraid.**"

This phrase appears 300+ times in the Bible, must be important

28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

29 "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

30 But **when he saw the wind**, he was **afraid** and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Changed his focus

Lesson Text: Matthew 14:22-33 *(continued)*

Jesus Rescues Peter

31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.

33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Commentary: 2-Points

1. Focus matters
2. Storms are for growth

1: Focus matters

- Bad things happen when we lose focus
- Analogies:
 - Driving: Focus on the road
 - eg. Black-ice
 - Pilots: Focus on the instruments
 - Running Cross-country: Focus on jersey/uniform in front of you
 - Despite being exhausted, doubt creeps in, cold, overcast, cramp
- Media & Advertisers
 - Masters of distraction
 - Google, Facebook, Youtube, Netflix, News, Billboards, ...

1: Focus matters *(continued)*

- Peter was fine until he stopped focusing on Jesus (Matt. 14:30)
 - Shifted focused to the storm
 - Slow fall vs. fast
- Prayer & Worship are easy ways to fix our focus
 - Praying for others helps too
- Matt. 14:23, Matt 6:6, ...
 - After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone.

1: Focus matters *(continued)*

Colossians 3:2

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Isaiah 26:3

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.

Matthew 6:33

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

2: Storms are for growth

- Storm: anything that stirs up fear or doubt
- There will **always** be storms (John 16:33)
 - "... In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world"
- God allows us to go thru storms
 - v22: Jesus sent the disciples on a path to the storm
 - There are things you learn in storms that you won't learn anywhere else
 - James 1:2-4, Romans 5:1-5
 - "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face **trials** of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance ..."
- God is not trying to make us comfortable, he's trying to make us more like Jesus

2: Storms are for growth *(continued)*

- Today's storms are preparation for tomorrow's storms
- Analogies: Parenting
 - Tests at School
 - Infant vaccines
 - A controlled storm, not to overwhelm
- Jesus would be crucified within a year
- Storm Strategy:
 - Grow in God
 - Ask God for help, depend on Him

Life application questions

- *Focus matters*
 - When life gets hard, where do you focus?
- *Storms are for growth*
 - What have you learned from life's storm?

Parts that resonated

- On-going / continuous
 - Not a one-time thing
 - Personal: Worried about being effective at new job
- Peter:
 - A little faith is better than no faith

Church School Creed & Benediction

Creed:

Our Church School must grow & grow

And we must help to make it so

Every member a Christian

Every Christian a worker

Every worker trained

A worker that will not be ashamed

This we ask in Jesus' name

Amen

Benediction:

We have come

We have studied

We have learned

So until our next coming together

To study God's word

May His rich blessings reside with you

And may His Grace be eternally yours

Amen