

“Peter Walking on Water” (lesson #5)

Matthew 14:22-33; John 6:16-21

1. What event had just taken place (Matt 14:15-21; John 6:1-14)?

Feeding 5000 men plus women & children with 5 loaves & 2 fish

a. Why did Jesus constrain the disciples to enter the ship (John 6:15)?

The multitude wanted to take Him by force & make Him a king.

Jesus didn't want His disciples caught up in the frenzy of an unscriptural practice.

Is there a lesson here for us?

2. Jesus walked on the sea (Matt 14:26). How did this affect the disciples?

First, they were troubled.

Secondly, they were cheerful (relieved) since they had been rowing for several hours.

Thirdly, they worshipped Jesus by confessing that He was the Son of God.

a. What was Peter's reaction (vs. 28)? Was this an act of faith on his part?

He asked for the “command” to walk to Jesus.

Yes it was an act of faith since Jesus “commanded” it to be done, but Peter did not have the depth of faith or trust in Christ to carry out the command

3. Peter learned that a disciple of Jesus must depend wholly upon Christ (**Matt 14:27, 31**). What is the lesson for us (**1 Pet 5:4-10**)?

FIRST – WHAT DO THE WAVES & THE WIND REPRESENT?

ANSWER TO QUESTION ABOVE:

Submissive humility towards God & our brethren,

Sober (serious)

Vigilance (watchful),

Resisting the urge to look away from the Lord.

Fully trusting the word or command of Christ.

Peter was right to be aware of his surroundings, but **Peter** was wrong to think that he was there alone & under his own power.

When one counts the cost of discipleship, he should never doubt the Lord's presence & concern during some trial or temptation, because **doubt** results in **fear!** "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power & of love & of a sound mind" (**2 Tim 1:7**).

4. What caused Peter's failure (**vs. 30-31**)? What digressive steps were in his failure? What is the lesson for us?

Peter sunk because of his fear & doubt, which is the absence of faith in the commands or words of Christ.

He turned his gaze away from the Savior.

He must have momentarily thought that he was out there on the water by his own ability, which caused him to lose fear & doubt because the elements were much greater & stronger than he. **When** Jesus gives a command, there is no power on earth that can prevent us from carrying out His will.

APPLICATION:

1. We see that doubt & fear, anxiety are characteristics of “little” faith. What might contribute to “little” faith in our lives?

Doubt whether our actions meet with God’s approval:

Rom 14:23 – But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.

Doubt the power & effectiveness of prayer:

James 1:6-8 – But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven & tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Double-minded or having a heart with divided interests:

James 4:8 – Draw near to God & He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; & purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Fearing man over God:

Luke 12:4-5 (Matt 10:8-31) – "And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, & after that have no more that they can do. 5 But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!

John 9:22 – His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue.

Doubting God’s ability to provide, thus leading one to live a fearful life overly concerned about material possessions:

Matt 6:25-34 (Luke 12:22-34)

These were commanded to “fear not” or “do not be afraid”. **Why?**

Abraham (Gen 15:1) – fear of never having an heir

Hagar (Gen 21:17) – fear of losing her son

Isaac (Gen 26:24) – fear of having no place to settle

Moses & Joshua (Deut 31:8) – fear of the unknown in the Promised land

Joseph (Matt 1:20) – fear of Herod’s plot to kill Jesus

Zachariah (Lk 1:13) – fear of seeing an angel & hearing the message to follow

Mary (Lk 1:30) – fear of seeing an angel & hearing the message to follow

Shepherds (Lk 2:10) – fear of seeing an angel, the glory of the Lord & the heavenly host.

Simon Peter (Lk 5:10) – fear of leaving home for a new profession

Jairus (Lk 8:50) – fear of losing a child

Paul (Acts 27:24) – fear of rotting in jail

John (Rev 1:17) – fear at seeing the Presence of Christ

2. Why would it be difficult for many to believe that anyone ever actually walked on water?

Many:

1) **Refuse to believe** what they have not seen, especially if it contradicts the natural ordinary laws of the physical world.

2) **Refuse to accept** reliable testimony that confirms the facts.