

WALKIN ON WATER

Mt 14:22-36

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INTRODUCTION

Being a believer is wonderful, but not easy

FAITH IS HARD: Noah ark, David Goliath, Daniel lions den

God expects great faith from us

Matt 14:22-36 JESUS ABOUT TO PASS BY = “reveal self” to them

“pass by” = reveal self in a theophany

Moses in rock - Elijah in desert

Need deeper revelation of God

Jesus send them into danger – told them to get into the boat

STORM all night, Jesus send them - end of own strength

No exemption from the storms of life

Jesus comes: when & in way least expected

YOU looking for Jesus in current situation in life?

PETER WILLING TO DO GOD’S WILL

Mt 14:27-29 (to “come”)

Why did Peter ask Jesus if He should come?

IN God’s will = FAITH - OUTSIDE God’s will = FOOLISH

PETER WALKS ON THE WATER

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

Imagine stepping over side of rocking boat, placing weight

The greater the risk the greater you experience God’s power and presence

RISK: need God’s power to let go

What in your life are you doing can’t do on your own?

If God would withdraw His power what would change?

Probably more things than you think:

Loving that hurtful person in your life

Forgiving those who don't deserve it

Living a life of honesty and integrity

Putting the needs of your family before yourself

Being faithful at work despite what isn't fair

Staying on the victory side of a sin that would destroy

If want to walk on water **you must get out of the boat**

PETER DID, DISCIPLES DIDN'T

DISCIPLES IN BOAT like me, playing it safe, no risk, no

WHAT'S YOUR BOAT?

= safety, security apart from Jesus found where?

Where do YOU run in a storm?

Relationships, Money, Job, Success, Secret sin

He actually walked on water ... for awhile...

STORMS COME IN LIFE

30 But when he saw the wind,

STORMS come, even if following Jesus – Job, Joseph

Storms have a way of teaching what nothing else can

PETER GOT AFRAID

30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid

Fear/danger = opportunity to trust

FEAR: #1 command in Bible is 'fear not' - Fear or Faith

Walking on water = RISKY BUSINESS = 1 step at a time

Following God takes you out of your comfort zone

Little by little move further and further from your 'security'

ME travel, speak – like never thought I would/could!

Not an easy PROCESS, but PRODUCT worth it

Where God asks you to get out of boat right your FEAR

-what do you fear most? *WHERE GOD STRETCHES YOU!*

-what is God asking you to do out of your comfort zone?

Henrietta Mears, great Bible teacher and wonderful Christian woman, on death bed asked what would do differently if had to do it over again: "I would have trusted Jesus more!"

Don't want to have to say that at end of our life!

GOD doesn't stop/remove storm (us not exempt to it)

NOT trust God to remove storm

BUT trust God to get through storm

Life without storms – no opportunities to trust

PETER STARTS TO SINK

30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink,

Eyes OFF Jesus, onto storm, sank

Circumstances not change, Peter's perspective of them did

Did he expect Jesus to stop storm for him? **Do we?**

Won't ever grow without taking risk

Physical muscle

Spiritual muscle

DANGEROUS out of the boat

But more dangerous in the boat – if not in God's will

Would Peter have gotten out of the boat if it weren't sinking?

In storm with Jesus safer than in boat without Jesus!

NO PLACE SAFTE THAN BEING IN THE CENTER OF GOD'S WILL

Danger, fear will never go away!

Conquer one area of fear, ready to take on greater fear

ME fear Sunday afternoon car ride, any trip from home

ME not like meet new people, speaking to new groups

PETER LEARNS FROM HIS FAILURE

Matthew 14:30-31

But failure = opportunity to grow, learn from it

WHY RISK GETTING OUT OF THE BOAT?

God calls us to it

It's the only way to real growth
It's the way true faith develops – no shortcuts!

THE DANGER OF STAYING IN THE BOAT

COST TO PETER: face fear, go thru risk, stretching

BENEFIT: growth, closer to Jesus

COST TO DISCIPLES: miss opportunity to grow close Jesus

**BABY goes through much risk, stretching, failure,
But what if stay safe newborn whole life?**

Is it worth it for a baby? (43 yrs old and still fed, diaper)

Is it worth it for a Christian? (believer fear, not growing)

Reason: Never got out of the boat!

GOD'S POWER SEEN IN DANGER

Matthew 14:32-33

Jesus IS revealed to them!

FAITHFULNESS COMMANDED

Parable of the TALENTS

1, 3, 10 = to invest for the master

Risky to invest, use – could lose it all!

Safer to hide it away – keep it unused

Jesus returns, those who took risks commended

Keep my glasses safe and not enjoy – one day gone!

CONCLUSION

TIME TO GET OUT OF THE BOAT

No excuses, blaming others, mate, life, God

No putting it off for better time, easier time, tomorrow

When God calls you to get out of the boat He gives you power to walk on water!!!

It takes FAITH to get out of the boat

RISK involved = opportunity to trust