

Jesus and Peter Walk on the Water

Our devotion today is familiar to most of us, it is the account of Jesus and Peter walking on the raging water. This event occurred right after Jesus feeding of the 5000. Jesus had gone to a secluded place to spend time in prayer with the Father, but the crowds followed Him and as often the case, Jesus put others before Himself. So, after hours of feeding the crowd both physically and spiritually Jesus sent everyone away, including His disciples to have some time alone with His Father.

S- **Matthew 14:22-33** *“Immediately He (Jesus) made the disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds. And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray.*

PK- **Jesus time in prayer with His Father** was precious and important to Him, just as it should be for us. To spend that “secret time” in prayer, how sweet it is for the soul, to take it to The Lord in Prayer.

This reminds me of that old hymn “In the Garden”

S- “I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on the roses
And the voice I hear
Falling on my ear
The song of God discloses
And He walks with me
And He talks with me
And He tells me I am His own
And the joy we share
As we tarry there
None other has ever known”

PK- **As leaky vessels we need** to make our time with the Lord a regular schedule in our day, it truly is transforming, giving us rest

and peace and leaves us with that deep joy in our hearts and calm our minds.

Trapp says, “Secret prayer fattens the soul, as secret morsels feed the body.” **So true! Ha-ha** but the difference is one is good for you the other isn’t.

S- *“When evening came, He was there alone, but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them.*

And in the fourth watch (between 3 & 6 AM) of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, “It is a ghost!” and they cried out in fear.

But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.”

PK- Now Jesus came to them after they had been rowing against a strong wind and waves for hours, exhausted and loosing heart.

Jesus will allow His people to experience trials and hardships for a season, but He will come, although many times it isn’t as soon as we would like, but His timing is perfect every time.

The disciples thought they were seeing a ghost and fear overwhelmed them, **but Jesus** calmed their fears as He always will do. I love what He said, *“Take heart! it is I. or “Have courage! it is I.”* We all should plant this truth within us and bring it to mind whenever we are fearful that we KNOW that Jesus will walk across any storm to comfort His children and calm our soul. His word is given, *“He will never leave us or forsake us.”*

Now comes such an awesome event! One of my favorites!

S- *And Peter answered Him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.”*

He said, “Come.” So, Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus.”

PK- WOW! Peter trusted that Jesus' word was all he needed to **do the impossible**, and he stepped out in complete faith and walked upon the water. We are not told how many steps Peter took but he is the only other human ever recorded to have walked on water besides Jesus.

One of the many comforts we have as Believers is the fact that God never changes, He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

The prophet Isaiah records an account of the Lord speaking to Jacob/Israel that can reinforce and strengthen our faith and as believers, His words are as true for us today as when He spoke them.

S- Isaiah 43:1-2,

*“Now this is what the LORD says—
the One who created you, Jacob,
and the One who formed you, Israel —
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by your name; you are Mine.
I will be with you
when you pass through the waters,
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not overwhelm you.
You will not be scorched
when you walk through the fire,
and the flame will not burn you.”*

PK- Our part in this relationship is to simply **keep our eyes on Jesus**, it's not always easy, as we will see in Peter's experience.

S- “But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.”

*Jesus **immediately** reached out His hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “**O you of little faith, why did you doubt?**”*

And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

And those in the boat worshiped Him, saying,

“Truly you are the Son of God.”

PK- There is that word again, “But”, whenever we encounter it, **things change**, in this case Peter was supernaturally walking on the water **as his eyes were focus on Jesus**, **then that word is before him, “But”.**

“But you don’t understand,”

“But my situation is different,”

“But the wind and waves!”

What did Jesus say the problem was?

Doubt! “...*why did you doubt?*” Doubt erases faith, the little faith that Peter had was keeping him on top of the water, “**But**” then he took his eyes off the focus of his faith and began to reason with his own understanding, “I can’t walk on water!” and “Splash!” he sank. **You see** walking by faith is trusting in Jesus above everything else, above gravity, fear, sight, feelings, you name it! Miracles are miracles because God intervenes in the natural with the supernatural. His power overrides all else, **that’s why it’s called FAITH!** If we could reason through it with our own understanding then we wouldn’t need God, **BUT** the results will be limited to what we know and what we can do.

Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us to “*Trust in the Lord with **all your heart** and lean not on your own understanding; In **all your ways** acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your Path.*”

I’m sure Peter dreamed about this moment the rest of his life, and he is probably still talking about it with the other apostles, “Do you remember when...”

Many commentators focus on Peter’s lapse of faith rather than his bold step of faith getting out of the boat in the first place. This is also often paralleled with Peter’s denial of Christ; Peter was a man of bold faith, statements, and actions but sometimes it backfired on him, **good for him**, at least he tried! In the garden he boldly pulled his sword and cut off the ear of one of the high priest’s servant’s,

wrongly thinking he had to defend Jesus. **But no one can say he didn't try.**

“Peter let doubt displace his faith. In all the time he had been with Jesus, even Peter, one of Christ's closest friends, was still learning to trust the Lord completely.”

Trying and failing is commendable **only if** you get back up and try again. When Peter denied Jesus those three times, we see that he was not the same until he said “**Yes, Jesus**” **three times** to repent and get back into the fight with a renewed and strengthened faith.

Closing summery

Jesus showed us, His disciples, that ALL creation is in subjection to Him whether it be in multiplying the loafs and fish or walking upon the water and calming the raging sea **or you fill in the blank.**

Now we can agree with the disciples when they proclaimed that “***Truly you are the Son of God.***”

I know it seems like all we ever talk about is how we are to **walk by faith and not by sight.** That **we are not of this world** but are a peculiar people that **walk by the Spirit,** and that is true, we are to expect the supernatural because we have the supernatural in us, to give us that same power that kept Peter on top of the sea and fed the 15,000! By faith we can move mountains and calm raging seas, with and through His power within His will and to His glory.

Let us pray for that focused faith that Peter had for that miraculous moment and step out of our own understanding and experience what walking by the supernatural ability that lives in us, today.

So, join me in praying for Jesus to use us to feed the multitudes food for the body and for the soul, in Rio Rancho and America and to the udder most parts of the world.