

GO TO THE OTHER SIDE

Matthew 14:22-33 (KJV)

²² And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.

²³ And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

²⁴ But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.

²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

²⁶ And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

²⁷ But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

²⁸ And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

²⁹ And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

³⁰ But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

³¹ And immediately Jesus stretched forth *his* hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

³² And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.

³³ Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

And I will title the message this morning: GO TO THE OTHER SIDE.

In the current landscape of our nation, politics, pandemic, and economic situations, people are afraid and, worried, concerned, and rightfully so. But I came this morning to tell you that everything is going to be ok.

You are all familiar with this story and have probably heard some version of this preached at some point in your life, but this morning I want to preach what God has put on my heart.

THE STORY

At the moment that we read this story, the disciples had just seen 5000 men besides women and children and the Lord has told them to go out on the ship and go to other side.

So they go to the ship, get on and start the trip to the other side as they were told.

But as life would have it, as they started the journey in obedience to the Lord, unexpected obstacles came their way.

This brings me to my first point that we all know by experience.

YOUR WALK WITH GOD WILL BE ACCOMPANIED WITH DIFFICULTIES

Anytime you attempt to do right by God, things can and will get a little difficult and even seem out of control.

In fact, listen to this:

2 Timothy 3:12 (KJV)

¹² Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

That word persecution can be understood as difficulty.

These difficulties are only from 2 possible sources:

- **The Lord** - in which He utilizes these difficulties to stretch us grow us in faith
- **Satan** - our opposition who loves to utilize any and every opportunity to bring about discouragement and frustration to the point of giving up

God desires to build faith and bring about the best version of us through these moments.

Our adversary desires to destroy us and make us quit and give up on everything, even God.

And difficulties there will be.

In the case of the disciples, we find that as they found themselves on their own, the wind began to blow and the waves tossed the boat around and they began to wonder if their safety and promise was going to fall apart.

What promise was that?

Jesus told them to go to the other side in a ship.

Now what He had said and what He sent them in was both being challenged.

Waves tossed them and wind blew them around and what was once a bold statement of faith following Jesus, had now turned into a questionable moment that may be written off as a mistake.

And this is what Satan does so well...

He is the master of deceit. He takes situations that are real and turns them into something bigger than they really are.

Let me prove my point:

Matthew 14:25-26 (KJV)

²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

²⁶ And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

They thought they saw a ghost, due to the fear that Satan was able to bring about by the wind and waves, or the circumstances of this situation they were facing.

Listen to this: The things that God uses to build our faith are the things that our enemy uses to cripple it.

So difficult circumstances are a part of being a Christian.

And growth is the purpose. It is your choice how you grow, you can either become better through this or bitter because of it.

So the disciples go forward and they even though they are facing hard times right where Jesus tells them to be, they have a chance to do something never done before.

YOU ARE NOT FACING THIS ALONE

Sure the disciples had each other and that was great, but most difficult times in life are going to take a moment with Christ to endure them.

Jesus walks out to them on the very water and through the very rain that was causing the problems and them: "Be happy, because I am here."

And I want you to get that in your spirit this morning as well.

It doesn't matter what you face, where you are, and even how it came about, Jesus is there with you.

In fact, life in this story, He made His way out to them through the waves and wind, **I believe just to show them that what they feared had no effect on Him.**

And how could it? **We aren't talking about a man, we are talking about the Son of God.**

**Blind eyes aren't bigger than Him.
Deaf ears were not bigger than Him
Even the dead were raised at His voice.
He even overcame death Himself.**

So don't tell me this morning that this is bigger than what you can do or that this is bigger than my God, because it isn't.

Let me show you something in this story.

The very thing that they feared would now be conquered by faith.

Peter asks to come out onto the waves just like Jesus and Jesus tells him to come.

And Peter literally, not figuratively, but Peter literally walks on top of water.

Or let me say it differently: **Peter faced the very circumstances that he once was afraid to face and he stood in victory.**

And this is why we face these moments.

We find out that we aren't alone.

We find out that Jesus can do anything.

We find out that if our faith stays in Him, that we can face anything.

Peter, like many of us, wants to face this, and he boldly steps out there, just like many of us, some of you are there this morning, and willingly you face this moment with your heart full of faith and things are great.

Then you look around for a moment and you take your eyes off of Jesus.

And the moment Peter took his eyes off of Jesus, they were back on the situation, he was afraid and he began to sink.

And listen, **I commend the faith and the desire of us all to face what we go through, just as Peter, but we cannot take our eyes off the source of our strength and our hope.**

Well, Bro. Josh, the waves got too big and do you know what could have happened?

Listen to me for a minute: **If Satan could really do all that he whispers in your ear, then why hasn't he done it yet?**

He says he'll kill you.

He says this things will never change.

He says that you will never be the same.

And you can either look at those waves and feel that wind and get scared and start to sink, or you can set your eyes on Him, the one who walks on water and He will keep you afloat.

Satan has been defeated. He can throw every wave out there that he wants to and he can make the wind blow as much as he wants, I know in whom I believe and I am persuaded that He will do that which He has promised because I have committed it to Him.

It is time for some Christians to believe this word again this morning, and quit looking at what doctors say and what people say and what Satan says, and hear what God says:

- **Isaiah 54:17 (KJV)**
¹⁷ No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue *that* shall rise

against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* of me, saith the LORD.

- **Romans 8:31 (KJV)**
³¹ What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?
- **Isaiah 59:19 (KJV)**
¹⁹ So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.
- **Psalms 34:19 (KJV)**
¹⁹ Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

Quit looking at the waves and stop looking at what is going on around you, even though it is happening, and keep your eyes on Him.

Jesus is with you and as long as you stay close to Him and keep your eyes toward Him, then everything is going to be alright.

You are not alone in this, for He is with you.

But if for a moment you waiver, as we all do because we are human, He isn't done with you.

I like this part of the story, **not because Peter shows his humanity but because God shows us His love.**

Peter starts sinking and it says he cried out, "Lord, save me."

It says that immediately Jesus stretched forth His hand and caught Him.

You can do the same thing. **It doesn't matter what you've done, it doesn't matter who you are, it doesn't matter what brought you to that point in time, call out to Him, and the hand of God will reach down and save you.**

That hand is a big hand.

It formed man.

It parted the Red Sea.

It knocked down Jericho walls.

It thumped a stone out a sling into the head of a giant.

It tore the veil at the temple.

It rolled away the stone at the grave.

And that same hand wants to grab you in your time of need, but you must call out help.

You are not alone in this.

The Creator of the entire universe is there and He wants you to ask.

THESE MOMENTS BRING REVELATION

Let me show you what I mean:

Matthew 14:33 (KJV)

³³ Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

Now they had been through one of these before. It got their attention and they wondered who He was.

But when the situation got overwhelming and almost brought them down and they called out to Him and He heard them and helped them, they got a revelation of Him.

Or through this situation, they learned even more about who He really was.

This too, is part of the purpose of trial.

And you must see it through to get the revelation God intended for you to have about who He is and what He can do for you.

MUSICIAN

If you read beyond this passage in verse 34 you will find this:

Matthew 14:34 (KJV)

³⁴ And when they were gone over, they came into the land of Gennesaret.

They got to the other side, in the ship that they had started out in, and everyone was ok.

Friends, when Jesus says that you are going to the other side, that means that you are going to the other side.

He doesn't promise that without a challenge, but you will get there.

Just know that those challenges are designed for growth.

And know that you are not alone.

ALTAR CALL