

Wet Water Walkers Part 2

Freedom

Galatians 5:1 (NIV)

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Freedom is not a destination that we arrive at; it's an adventure that we embark on.

Matthew 14:22-27 (NIV)

22Immediately 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. 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. 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. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

- Jesus sent them into the waves to reveal Himself, not to hide Himself
- The very thing that they feared the most, Jesus came walking ON TOP of it. It wasn't a circus act. It was a power play. The Great I AM declaring His Freedom over all that we fear!

3 Responses to Freedom

GET UP!

Verses 28-29 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.

- First: Jesus called him out. Sometimes we step out do something that Jesus never called us to. Instead of faith, we step out in fear, in pride, ambition, something to prove to ourselves or others. God is calling us into greater freedom, let's not try to do it without Him.
- Object Lesson: Leave the life preserver in the boat!
 - o Our back up plan, you know, just in case Jesus doesn't work out
 - o "It just doesn't make sense to get in the water without a personal flotation device"
 - o "I'm going to test the water" when we are really testing God. We call it wisdom but it's worry.
 - o "But I don't know how to swim." That's okay, we aren't going swimming!

- Comfortable floating? False sense of security like the boat. We'll at least I'm not drowning. You were not made to float; you were made to stand!
- Nature Preserves: our life preservers make us think we are protecting ourselves from harm but when we are really keeping God out.
- Comparison "Well, at least I'm not in the boat."

Psalm 121:7 (NKJV) The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul.

- We have one "Life Preserver" his name is Jesus!!

Freedom is a Choice

Deuteronomy 30:19 (NIV) I have set before you life and death, blessings; and curses. Now choose life.

- Free to get out of the boat! Free to trust Jesus like never before.
- He took a step out of the boat of comfort and familiarity into freedom...he got wet, but He got free!
- We know what happens next. But let's celebrate...bro just walked on water. They could have all been doing the church clap on the water but 11 stayed in the boat. "I'd rather be a wet water walker than a dry boat sitter."
- Don't miss the freedom that God wants to lead you into this year because of fear. The real failure would have been if he never took a step
- Choosing freedom every day means we are consistently walking towards Jesus!
- His voice Calling over the Comfort of the boat.

LOOK UP!

Freedom is a Person

Verses 30-31a ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him.

- Peter cried out and immediately and Jesus picked Him up. Stop waiting until you are underwater to cry out! And don't cry out to the boat, cry out to the Savior!
- 95% of people live reactive to outward circumstances. Why? That's where we are looking. "Fear" eyes will play tricks on you. They'll have you thinking Jesus is on the shore when He's really next to your boat. "We'll be okay when we get to shore instead we will be okay on the way." (We are spirit first...we take our cues from the Spirit) If it's you, call me!

2 Corinthians 5:7 We walk by faith not by sight.

- There's only one thing that changed from when Peter walked on the waves and when he sank. The waves were there, Jesus was there. What changed? Where Peter was looking!
- Let's keep our eyes focused on Jesus. It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. I don't know how He is going to do it or what He is going to do but He is the Great I AM, and He will do it!

Verse 31b *“You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”*

- Jesus wasn't saying that Peter didn't have faith in Him. Most of the time we don't doubt if Jesus can be free. We doubt ourselves.... the Greater One inside of us.
- When Peter looked at the waves, he doubted himself. That he could walk in the freedom that Jesus called him to.
- Even though He was out on the water, something was holding him to the boat.

What are you tethered to? *For centuries, sailors and fishermen will tether themselves to their ships/boats in high winds and seas. The tether was made of rope or cable, and the idea was to keep you secured to the ship. The only time you ever felt it was if you began to sink. This was true for Peter and it's true for us.*

- The rope: What thoughts and feelings keep you looking at the waves and the boat? These are strongholds: *these are lies the enemy plants into your mind that are contrary to the Word of God.*
 - o Unforgiveness, pride, shame, insecurity, money, success, habitual sin, fear...
- Beware of the trap of self-awareness. If you become self-aware without being God-aware, get ready to sink. But when you combine a healthy sense of self-awareness with God awareness, get ready to live free and walk on water!

Who are you tethered to? *Jesus sets the captives free but how. Jesus didn't free us to do whatever we want. That's not free, that's lose. He doesn't just cut what we are tethered to, He joins us to Himself. Peter looked up and was tethered to Jesus.*

1 Corinthians 6:17 (VOICE) *But when you are joined with the Lord, you become one spirit with Him.*

- Object Lesson: use the rope to show being tethered to Jesus
- Free from and free to: Now I'm tethered to the Way, the Truth, and the Life, to the person of Freedom, Joy, Peace, Holiness, Forgiveness.

DON'T GIVE UP!

- You might get wet as you learn to live free, but don't swim back to the boat.
- He doesn't call us out of the boat in faith, only to sink in fear.
- Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him Why did Jesus help Peter stand on the water again before getting back into the boat? Because in life, we sink sometimes and but if we cry out to Jesus we can learn to stand. Just stand back up.

Galatians 6:9 (AMP) *Let us not grow weary or become discouraged in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap, if we do not give in.*

- I wonder what breakthroughs were just around the bend, but we gave up and swam back to the boat. (Cortez burned the ships, Elisha burned the plows)

Philippians 4:12 (NIV) Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

Freedom is a story

- Focus of the bigger thing God is doing is inside us, not around us. He calls us into the waves to show us that where He walks, we can walk.

Verse 32-35 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." ³⁴ When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret. ³⁵ And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to him ³⁶ and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

- When Jesus got in the boat the wind stopped. He wants to walk us into freedom. They experienced new levels of freedom on their way to free others.
- Notice Jesus walked Peter back boat that He called him from. But Peter was different. No more life preserver or tether. Those old places of bondage are now a Place of Freedom!
- Notice the disciples in the boat worshiped Jesus instead of praising Peter. Our Places of Freedom are about Him.
- Then, they took the boat to Bethsaida (Peter's hometown), but the "storm" (**the discovering of freedom**) rerouted them to Gennesaret: Rabbis called this region *the Garden of God, a fruitful place for crops, a treasure. "All who touched Him, were healed.)*
- You thought you were just going to a place you had been, but God has greater in mind. There is more!
- God will use our freedom story to reach places we could never reach otherwise. Freedom to me and through me! Who will be free because they standing next to me?

Walk on Water:

- Register for a GROW Nights or a connect group.
- Get Baptized or Make Jesus your Lord.