

Unsinkable – Lost in Translation

10/17/21

Matthew 14:23-33

Sunday AM

AYK – We’ve been in a series entitled, **Unsinkable**, studying the time when Peter walked on water – so that we can learn how to navigate the highs/lows of life thru exercising an unsinkable faith.

Each week, we’ve been learning an essential truth to help us to thrive in our faith. In **week (1)** we learned *we must see Jesus for who He really is instead of settling for seeing Him only for who we want Him to be*. In **week (2)** we learned *the CL is about walking step-by-step in the presence, power, and provision of God instead of in our own ability/ingenuity*. In **week (3)**, we learned from the other 11 disciples that *our calling, choices, and convictions are more vital than our comfort, conveniences, and circumstances*. Then, in **week (4)** we learned *how to turn our eyes from what is uncertain to focus them on what is certain*.

As we close out this series today, I want to begin w/ a funny video I received this week that fits perfectly w/ what I want to talk about today.

Watch this – *What are you sinking?*

W/out a doubt, **sometimes truth can get lost in translation**. Sometimes, can we miss the forest for the trees. Sometimes we can miss the obvious even though it is staring us right in the face.

Such was the case for the disciples. As a reminder, Jesus had been taking the (12) thru a lengthy process *to help them to see Him for who He was instead of allowing them to see Him only for what they wanted Him to be*. Remember, they were looking for a Messiah to save them from Rome. So, to teach them, Jesus sent them out in pairs in His power to minister and perform miracles in His name (but they missed it). After they returned, Jesus gave them a chance to apply their faith in Him by providing them w/ an opportunity to feed the 5,000 – and yet again, they missed Him – even though, they literally were holding the Bread of Life in their hands. So, Jesus set them afloat on the Sea of Galilee knowing a storm was brewing – to see if they might finally see Him in all of His glory – and in turn, bend their knees and bow their hearts in worship.

After dismissing the crowd, Jesus had the disciples get into the boat to go on ahead of Him to the other side. After He had dismissed them, He went up on a mountainside by Himself to pray. Later that night, He was there alone, and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves b/c the wind was against it. Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw Him walking on the lake, they were terrified. They cried out in fear, “It’s a ghost.” Then Jesus said, “Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid.” Peter replied, “Lord, if it’s you, command me to come to You on the water.” Jesus said, “Come.” Then Peter got out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately, Jesus reached out His hand and caught him. Then Jesus said, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.” Matthew 14:23-33

FINALLY! The truth sank in and the (12) got it! ***Here is the climax of this event***. It wasn’t that the winds died down, but that the (12) woke up – they *worshiped Him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”*

This is the ultimate precept to grasp if we’re to manage the highs/lows of life – learning to worship/center our lives on God in the midst of the storm.

LWF – the (12) hadn't yet understood who Jesus was while on their missionary journeys and at the feeding of the 5,000. But there on the water – it finally clicked. Jesus is God in the flesh. Jesus is our Lord/Savior – and as a result – ***they couldn't help but worship!***

Folks – this statement is a huge! Ginormous! B/c this statement shows us what happens when a person comes face-to-face w/ grace and are transformed by the power of God – **they worship!**

Yet I think worship is one of those things that has gotten ***lost in translation*** – especially for us today.

- I fear we view worship as an event to be enjoyed
- I fear we think worship is *for* us and *about* us
- I fear we think worship involves our preferences
- I fear we see worship as something received not given
- I fear we see worship as something we are owed

In fact, it appears to me worship has become attending a religious service, singing a few songs, and listening to a pastor bump his jaws. And sadly, for too many, worship has become more of a mindless activity we do either out of habit to check a religious duties box or we do it for a spiritual fix to satisfy an emotional high.

But what we see here in this passage (and in several other texts), is that ***worship is an attitude of the heart that results in an action desiring to please God.***

Which begs the question – ***What is worship?***

I think to fully understand and appreciate true worship, it's important to notice that somehow, in some way, w/out a church service, w/out a hymnal, w/out a sermon, w/out the items that we call worship today – **the (12) worshiped Jesus right there in the boat.**

I Worship is **RECOGNIZING** Jesus for Who He Is

Truth is, we don't really know how they worshiped in that moment – we only know that something was triggered w/in them to compel them to recognize and respond to God in a way they'd never done before.

DYK this was the first time the (12) had recognized Jesus w/ His full title – *Truly, you are the Son of God!*

This is a significant revelation. After months of witnessing the miraculous power/insightful ministry of Jesus, they finally saw Jesus as from God. ***They saw Him as the revelation of God*** – and they worshiped!

IOW – they had a change of heart/mind – and a change of perspective; and it dramatically impacted their lives. Their lives were transformed by this experience impacting their attitudes, ambitions, and actions.

This tells me that **worship** begins as an attitude and ambition of the heart that becomes an intentional action we do to honor God – as we place Him on the throne of our lives and make His purposes our priorities. ***It means that worship is an inside job w/ an outside result.*** It is something that begins in me and works thru me. It's not something I do; it's who I am that affects everything I do!

worship (*proskuneo*) to kiss towards. It's the idea of recognizing and *humbly* bowing before another being to offer a kiss of utmost respect/reverence for them.

I've spoken of this before – In ancient Persia/ME, as a salutation, when two people of equal authority met, they'd kiss on the lips. But when one party was inferior to the other, the inferior party would prostrate on the ground and begin offering kisses toward their superior.

In the boat, the (12) were overwhelmed and humbled before Jesus, they respectfully responded to Him by making Him the object of their affection – loving Him w/ all of their *heart, mind, soul, and strength*. In awe, they finally saw Him no longer as a prophet/teacher, but as God. They saw Him for who He was.

SEE – there recognition of His person impacted their willingness and ability to trust Him – showing us that true worship is learning to *rest* in God's presence.

II Worship is **RESTING** in God's Presence/Promise

Worship isn't just recognizing Jesus for who He is, it is also giving Him His rightful place/position on the throne of our lives to allow every area/detail of to be overwhelmingly influenced and aligned to His will/way for us as we rest solely upon Him.

Look at how the story end? It ends w/ praise/worship – *those in the boat worshipped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."*

To appreciate the transformation, we need to rewind an hour. For an hour earlier, the (12) were *desperate* – and now, they're experiencing jubilant worship. What changed from 3:00 AM to 4:00 AM? **Everything!**

@ 3:00 AM – Exhausted

@ 4:00 AM – Exalting

@ 3:00 AM – Anguish/Worry

@ 4:00 AM – Awe/Wonder

@ 3:00 AM – Abandoned/Forgotten

@ 4:00 AM – Found/Favored

The secret to having a faith that works is knowing at 3 o'clock that 4 o'clock is coming – it's knowing that while things might appear dark in the moment, that joy is coming when Jesus shows up/shows out as He has promised that He would.

Worship is replacing worry w/ rest. It's knowing that no matter how *torrential* the rains, how *terrific* the winds, how *tumultuous* the waves, that even while you might not see Him – ***you know that He still sees you*** – and that He will be there in His perfect timing.

MEANING – *faith is learning to adopt a 4 o'clock attitude while in the 3 o'clock storm.* It's a faith that rests in the promise of God – ***be of good cheer. It is I. Don't be afraid.*** It's a faith that remains focused on God's promises no matter the situation. It's a faith that gives God your mind's attention, your heart's affection, your will's ambition, and your life's actions.

IOW – *our worship shouldn't be controlled or manipulated by our circumstances; our circumstances should be influenced by our worship.*

III Worship is **RESPONDING** to Jesus in Surrender

While it's not obvious to the text, it is obvious thru-out the Scriptures – from this faith encounter, the (12) were never the same. (11) of the (12) disciples lived completely abandoned to the commission of Christ. They became living examples of Romans 12:1:

I urge you, brethren, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Rm. 12:1

I think Paul was saying – when a person has truly experienced the glory and redeeming mercy of God – when they've genuinely come face-to-face w/ grace – *they can't help but to **bend** their knee, **bow** their hearts, **surrender** their will and **offer** their lives as a living sacrifice that's pleasing to God...*

They can't help but yield their lives in surrender to honor Him who has done so much for them. They can't help but choose to let go of their way for God's way.

Consecration isn't our giving anything to God; it is our taking our hands off what already belongs to God.

I call this living open handed to God. (have everyone open their hands open palms up)

This happens when we finally come to the place where we realize how **big** He is and how **small** we are – when we finally accept that we're **earthly** and He's **eternal** – that we're **limited** and He's **limitless** – it's then that we can let go of what we're holding onto and entrust every detail of our life into His hands – no matter the circumstances we're encountering.

When we finally arrive at such a place of lives – we'll discover that our faith is true and not lost in translation.

TAKEAWAYS

Worship is an attitude and ambition of the heart that results in activity that seeks to honor and glorify God.

Our worship shouldn't be controlled or manipulated by our circumstances; our circumstances should be influenced by our worship.

The highest form of worship is yielding every area and detail of my life in complete surrender to God knowing He is worthy and capable to use my life for His glory.

NEXT STEPS

1 Spend time this week in your quiet time or with another person discussing these GROW questions.

G – Have you ever been lost in translation?

R – Read and reflect on **Exodus 20:3**. What is worship? What helps you to worship God?

Q – Read **Romans 12:1**. What does it mean to *offer your body as a living sacrifice*? How do we do this?

W – What 3 things can you do this week to make sure God is sitting on the throne of your life?

2 Take time this week to get alone w/ God to worship Him. Sing, pray, read, and reflect on who He is and what He has done for you.