

June 21st, 2019
FATHER'S DAY

"Step Out of the Boat!"

Matthew 14:22-24 (NLT): "22Immediately after [feeding the five thousand], Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. 23After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone. 24Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves."

The text leads us to believe that even with experienced fishermen, the disciples were concerned about the weather.

Matthew 14:25-26 (NLT): "25About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. 26When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, 'It's a ghost!'"

A common belief of that time was that the sea was the home of evil spirits, yet the Old Testament showed God's mastery over the sea, even walking on it.

Job 9:8 (NLT): "[God] alone has spread out the heavens and marches on the waves of the sea."

Matthew 14:27 (NLT): "But Jesus spoke to them at once. 'Don't be afraid,' he said. 'Take courage. I am here!'"

Dozens of times in the bible God, his angels and even Jesus tell people, "Don't be afraid."

Jesus' statement, "I am here," or "It is I" in some translations uses the same language God used when He told Moses His name, "I AM WHO I AM."

Jesus' disciples trust him enough to go wherever he sends them and do whatever he tells them to do, because even when it's hard, they discover they're not alone!

Ultimately, being a successful man and dad in God's eyes is about what did we do with our life entrusted to us by God for the sake of others, and especially our family.

Matthew 14:28-29 (NLT): "28Then Peter called to him, 'Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water.' 29'Yes, come,' Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus."

When the disciples' world has been spinning out of control, instead of playing it safe, Peter goes all in with Jesus.

If we will focus on *him*, Jesus will sometimes call us to take an even crazier step, and we will only discover and experience some aspects of the life Jesus wants for us when we seek him in those most challenging times.

Most of us aren't guilty of going too *far* with Jesus - we're guilty of not going far enough, of playing it too safe with him!

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NLT): “²⁰Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. ²¹Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.”

Dare to do things that are great, that *will be remembered* twenty years from now, that will always be talked about in your family, rather than being forgotten by next week - because God can do “infinitely more than we might ask or think.”

Matthew 14:30-31 (NLT): “³⁰But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. ‘Save me, Lord!’ he shouted. ³¹Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. ‘You have so little faith,’ Jesus said. ‘Why did you doubt me?’”

Peter took his eyes off Jesus and once again looked at the crazy world around him, that he'd been stuck in all night, “the strong wind and the waves,” and it scared him!

No one would have ever remembered Peter in this experience if he had stayed in the boat.

Sometimes we'll try and fail, but if we *never* try, we'll never succeed!

Every time we step out of the boat and try to do something great for Jesus, there's no limit to what's possible, including even walking on water!

Do what's right, and most of the time it will still work out for you here on earth, but even if it doesn't work out here on earth, it will always work out in eternity, and we see a part of who Jesus is that we might have otherwise missed.

Matthew 14:32-33 (NLT): “³²When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. ³³Then the disciples worshiped him. ‘You really are the Son of God!’ they exclaimed.”

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