

Summary

In this sermon, Pastor Chris explores Matthew 14:31, focusing on faith during life's storms. He begins by recounting Jesus' miraculous feeding of the 5,000 before sending His disciples into a storm on the sea. The message emphasizes that sometimes obedience leads us into adversity, but God remains in control. The pastor highlights three key elements: the weather (life's storms), our worry (fear that grips us), and the water (representing the world's challenges).

The central lesson comes from Peter's attempt to walk on water - as long as he kept his eyes on Jesus, he accomplished the impossible, but when he focused on the storm, he began to sink. The pastor encourages believers to replace worry with God's Word, speak Scripture aloud, pray specifically, and remember that Jesus is always present in our storms. He concludes by reminding the congregation that Jesus doesn't condemn but corrects, and offers four ways to 'walk on water': see Jesus in your storm, be willing to step out in faith, obey whatever Jesus commands, and believe what's possible rather than settling for what's rational.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss the storms of life and Your presence within them, we ask that You open our hearts and minds to receive Your truth. Just as You reached out to Peter when he began to sink, reach out to each of us today. Help us to see You in our storms, to trust You when the winds are contrary, and to keep our eyes fixed on You rather than our circumstances. Guide our conversation and reveal what You want each of us to learn today. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What's something you were afraid to try at first but eventually found the courage to do, and how did it turn out?

Key Verses

Matthew 14:31
Philippians 4:6-7
Romans 10:17

Questions

- The pastor mentioned that sometimes obedience leads us directly into adversity. Can you share a time when following God's direction led you into a difficult situation? How did God meet you there?
- Peter was able to do the impossible (walk on water) as long as he kept his eyes on Jesus. What tends to distract you from focusing on Jesus during difficult times?
- The sermon states, 'What was over their heads was under His feet.' How does this perspective change how you might view your current challenges?
- The pastor said, 'Don't let worry wear you out. Put the Word of God in place of your worry and watch the wonderful Savior appear in your life like you've never seen Him before.' What specific Scripture has helped you combat worry?
- In what area of your life might God be asking you to 'get out of the boat' and step out in faith right now?
- The pastor mentioned that Jesus didn't condemn Peter but corrected him. How do you typically respond to correction, and how might understanding God's heart in correction change your response?
- What's the difference between 'believing what's possible' versus 'settling for what's rational' in your faith journey?
- The sermon mentioned three practical steps for dealing with anxiety: speaking Scripture aloud, praying specifically, and remembering you're not alone. Which of these do you find most challenging to practice, and why?

Life Application

This week, identify one specific worry or fear that has been weighing on you. Write it down on a card along with a Scripture verse that directly addresses that fear. Commit to speaking that Scripture aloud three times each day. Additionally, take a moment whenever you feel anxious to pray specifically about that fear, naming it and deliberately handing it over to God. At the end of the week, reflect on any changes in your perspective or faith. Remember, just as Peter called out 'Lord, save me!' when he began to sink, your simple, honest prayers are powerful when directed to Jesus.

Key Takeaways

- You can be in the middle of God's will and still be surrounded by waves - if He takes you to it, He'll take you through it.
- What's over our heads is under God's feet - our storms don't panic Him because He's in control.
- When we take our eyes off Jesus and focus on our circumstances, we begin to sink in worry and fear.

- Replace worry with God's Word to experience His presence in new ways.
- To 'walk on water': see Jesus in your storm, be willing to get out of the boat, obey whatever Jesus tells you, and believe what's possible instead of settling for what's rational.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for being the Master of the sea and the Master of our lives. When the storms rage around us and we begin to sink in doubt and fear, help us to cry out to You as Peter did. Thank You that You immediately reach out Your hand to catch us. Forgive us for the times we've taken our eyes off You and focused instead on the wind and waves of our circumstances. This week, as we face our own storms, help us to speak Your Word, pray specifically, and remember that we are never alone. Give us the courage to step out of our boats of comfort and security, trusting that even if we begin to sink, You are right there to lift us up. May we walk in faith rather than fear, believing what's possible through You rather than settling for what seems rational to our limited understanding. In Your mighty name we pray, amen.