

## ***“Faith-filled Risks”***

Matthew 14:22-36

### **INTRODUCTION**

**Faith-filled Risks—We will attempt great things for God.**

Our God loves FAITH. More than that, that He loves faith-filled obedience. And that many times, our faith-filled obedience means taking a faith-filled risk.

But that many times, it is our faith-filled risk/obedience, that is exactly what God chooses to use to advance His kingdom like nothing else. And then *we see God show up. And lives are changed. And miracles happen. And people are saved.*

*<sup>22</sup> Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd.*

*<sup>23</sup> After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup> and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.*

*<sup>25</sup> Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. <sup>26</sup> When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup> But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”*

*“Take courage”*

*“Don’t be afraid”*

*“It is I”*

*<sup>28</sup> “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” <sup>29</sup> “Come,” he said.*

*Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” <sup>31</sup> Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”*

<sup>32</sup> And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. <sup>33</sup> Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

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

Hebrews 11:1-2 and 6 says this:

*Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. <sup>2</sup> This is what the ancients were commended for... <sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

Then the author then says “Think about it! Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, etc.” Why are these stories in the Bible? Because every time these people—normal, everyday, full-of-weakness-doubts-and-fears kind of people—every time they took a faith-filled risk God showed up, lives were changed, miracles happened, and people were saved.

#### **APPLICATION**

What miracle might happen because of your faith-filled risk? How might God show up? What are the lives that might be changed? Who’s going to get saved because of your faith-filled risk?

Couple words of caution:

*Faith-filled risks does NOT mean being risky because it’s cool or sounds extra spiritual. Be sure you know it is God calling you to a faith-filled risk.*

*So, how do you KNOW it’s God telling me to do something?*

1. Stay close to Jesus—love Him, obey Him, be filled by His Spirit
2. Pay attention to the inner promptings of your spirit
3. Then test everything by:
  - The Bible
  - Prayer
  - Godly Counsel
4. Once you determine what God is saying, step out in faith!

*NOTE: Stay tuned for daily videos, Monday-Friday this week, unpacking some of the above ideas.*

#### **Questions for Personal Reflection/Group Discussion**

1. What are examples in the Scriptures that exemplify someone taking a faith-filled risk?
2. What is an example in your own life of this? What were the results?
3. What is something that you sense God may be calling you toward that we can pray for you about—that God would grant you the faith and the boldness to “step out of the boat”?