

# "The King Walks on Water"

## Matthew 14:22-36

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**Jesus teaches the disciples a lesson about faith on the Sea of Galilee: (1) We must prioritize prayer so we can be prepared for storms, (2) Jesus invites us to trade our fear for faith in the midst of a storm & (3) Jesus provides healing for us when we have been wrecked by a storm.**

**Jesus is Our King: Create margin in your life to befriend and build relationships with others in your community (where you live).**

Intro: Eden + Asher catching a ball

**Subject: The King Walks on Water**

**Object: Keep Your Eyes on Jesus**

Context: Jesus feeds the 5,000 after hearing about John's beheading.

### **I. Prayer Before the Storm (v. 22-23)**

V.22-23 Again, Jesus is demonstrating a healthy rhythm. In v.13 after hearing about the beheading of John (something tragic), He goes away into a quiet place. Now in v.22 he sends his disciples away (v.22) and he goes to pray alone on a mountain (v.23) after experiencing this miracle (something exciting).

Jesus exemplifies these healthy rhythms to be refreshed in the presence of the Lord. There is a time to be flexible (Jesus having compassion on His personal day v.14) and a time to keep our priorities (v.22 He sends the multitudes away).

Like anything important, we must prioritize prayer or it will be overtaken by the tyranny of the urgent.

If you are going to say yes to prayer, you are going to have to say no to other things, even good things.

It starts with us truly believing that we need to pray.

Share struggle with prayer meetings - Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays

"I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer." — Martin Luther

In one sense, Jesus is praying to be refreshed after serving. In another sense, He may be praying to prepare Him for the storm.

Garden of Gethsemane Matthew 26 - Jesus stops to pray to prepare for the storm of the cross  
"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." - Matthew 26:41

Sometimes I wonder how many storms I am plummeted by because I was not prepared by prayer.

Ephesians 6 - Spiritual Warfare: the 2 weapons are the word and prayer

Prayer is communication with God, so it must be intentional (scheduled) and also relational (1 Thess. 5:17 - Pray without ceasing).

Aunt Rosie - Afraid to answer or call

Think back on your week - how often have you prayed? How can you be more intentional to pray this week?

Transition - Prayer prepares us for the storm, faith enables us to endure and conquer the storm

## II. Faith in the Storm (v.24-33)

v.24-26 fourth watch of night 3-6am (roman)

They are between 50-75% across the lake (per John's gospel)

tossed, contrary wind, exhausted (being that it was late), troubled, fear - how many of you this describes your week?

Q: What are some of the storms that people experience?

Life can be overwhelming at times: depression, relationships, people letting you down, finances being tight, temptation, struggling family members, job loss, health struggles, death.

v.27 - In the midst of all of this noise Jesus speaks

If we don't listen for His voice, the storm can drown out His voice

"Then He said, 'Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him..." - 1 Kings 19:11-13

Have you allowed the noise of your storm to drown out the voice of Jesus?

He tells them to be of good cheer and not to be afraid. Trade your fear for joy.

Really Jesus? You want me to have joy? It would take a lot for fisherman to be scared in a storm. This wind must have been gnarly!

v.28-29 Peter is amazing! He doesn't want to settle for just having joy in the midst of his storm, he wants to run straight into the storm and trample it!

Too often we are on the defensive in our circumstances. God invites us on the offense!

v.30-31 When He moved from awe of Jesus to fear of the wind, he sank. The same is true with you and I. Jesus says that this is related to Peter's faith.

Are your eyes on the wind right now or on Jesus? Where is your gaze!

Here is what I love: Peter cries out "Lord, save me!" and Jesus reaches out His hand.

You and I will sink. Jesus doesn't expect us to find our way out, but to cry out "save me!"

v.32-33 The wind stops and they worship Him

Do you worship God when He calms the storm?

If you are anything like me, you tend to blame God for your troubles and take credit for your victories.

What is one way God has delivered you? Do you praise Him for this?

Transition: faith enables us to conquer the storm, what do we do when we are beat up by a storm?

### **III. Healing after the Storm (v.34-36)**

v.34-36 (Gen-es-arat)

They recognize Him and realize that if they can only touch the hem of His garment, they would experience healing.

Jesus heals all of their sick.

Sometimes we come through a storm and we are stronger than ever! By the grace of God, we learn all of these valuable insights and we reinvent ourselves.

Other times, we emerge from the ruin beat up, tired, sick, done. What do we do?

Do what these people of Gennesaret do: come to Jesus.

The beg him, speaks of persistency and urgency.

"And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart." - Jeremiah 29:13

Maybe this morning you are beat up, tired, weary.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." - Matthew 11:28

**Conclusion: Are you using the weapon of prayer? Are you prepared for the storm? If you are in the storm, are you listening to the voice of Jesus or the wailing of the wind? Are you gazing upon Christ or on the crashing waves? Are you battered by the storm? Come to Jesus and fix your eyes of faith upon Him.**