

Sermon Notes – “Jesus calls us to trust His words. He calls us ‘to take Him seriously.’”

Matthew 14:22-33

### I. Not The First Time Disciples Saw Jesus Has the Power of the LORD God Almighty

Matthew 8:23 And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. 24 And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. 25 And they went and woke him, saying, “Save us, Lord; we are perishing.” 26 And he said to them, “Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?” Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. 27 And the men marveled, saying, “What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?”

- Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ to the storm and stopped it.
  - This storm was swamping the boat with water, threatening to sink it.
  - The disciples were afraid and had little faith (little trust in Jesus).
  - The disciples realized Jesus was more than a human like themselves.
- The fear of disciples in this instance was the fear of the storm and dying, it was a real threat. Jesus showed them His power to care for them.

### II. The Disciples Not Afraid of the Storm, But Afraid of Their Own Thinking About Jesus

- The words of Matthew 14:22-33 are clear about the situation:
  - The storm is not swamping the boat like the previous storm.
  - Though the winds and waves are against the disciples, they are making progress to reach their destination.
  - The disciples were not afraid of the \_\_\_\_\_ but of \_\_\_\_\_
    - They were terrified
    - They said Jesus was a ghost. Some kind of evil spirit.
    - They cried out in fear.
  - They knew Jesus by now! Would they trust in Jesus’ words?
- Jesus calls out to be brave, it is Him. Will the disciples listen?
  - “Take courage. Be brave. Do not be afraid.” Will they listen?

### III. Is Peter’s Response Faith or Doubting or Worse?

- Peter’s words show he did not believe and trust in Jesus’ words - Peter wanted more proof. “If it is you...”
- Peter’s own idea to walk on water, not Jesus’ idea. But Jesus agreed.
- Peter did walk on water to Jesus... but Peter still did not trust in Jesus - Peter estimated the storm was more powerful than Jesus - despite all evidence.
- Did Peter...
  - ... act on faith? Maybe? Jesus said he had a little faith, but also doubting.
  - ... believe and obey Jesus’ words to be brave and not be afraid? No.
  - ... regard his own thinking more reliable than Jesus’ words? Yes.
    - The old temptation of Genesis 3 - Did God really say that?
- Peter wanted more proof than what Jesus said, but still had little faith anyhow.
  - “If You do this Jesus, then I will believe...” (Not!!)

### IV. Jesus calls us to trust in His Word, His Mercy, His power.

- The disciples worshipped Jesus and said, “Truly you are the Son of God!”
- More than us! You are God! We should listen to You. Trust You. Worship You.
- Jesus calls us to listen to His Word and take Him seriously.
  - More seriously than any other teaching or experience in life.
  - Jesus is over all in life and death: suffering, pain, sorrow, wealth, poverty, success, politics, etc. He calls us to look things in life according to His teaching, not the world’s teaching.
- Jesus has mercy on all who call on Him. Measuring ourselves does little. (“How much do I believe?”) “Measure” Jesus’ mercy - it is unlimited. It is the cross.
- Jesus has power to help in all situations. Trying to bargain a solution with Jesus does not increase faith. Faith says, “I need Jesus. He can help. He will help.”
- Jesus says, “I am here for you. Don’t be afraid.”