

MATTHEW 14:30 – “LORD, SAVE ME!”

11/20/15 Sat Morn Prayer – ptwente@gmail.com

Mat 14:22-33 Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. [23] And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. [24] But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. [25] Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. [26] And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. [27] But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." [28] And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." [29] So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. [30] But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" [31] And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" [32] And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. [33] Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

Biblical Background:

Chapter 14 begins with the beheading of John the Baptist by Herod, the tetrarch. If Christ's forerunner was treated this way, let not us as His followers expect to be loved, caressed by the world. When Jesus heard of this news, He departed from, most likely the Tiberias area or the villages along the northern part of the Sea of Galilee to a deserted place by Himself. But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him by foot. We then have the feeding of the five thousand men!

Mat 14:22 Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.

“He brought me here.” v. 22

The storm came **because they were in the will** of God and not (like Jonah) out of the will of God. Did Jesus know that the storm was coming? Certainly! Did He deliberately direct them into the storm? Yes! **They were safer in the storm in God's will than on land with the crowds out of God's will. We must never judge our security on the basis of circumstances alone.**

As we read our Bibles, we discover that there are two kinds of storms: **storms of correction**, when God disciplines us; and **storms of perfection**, when God helps us to grow. Jonah was in a storm because he disobeyed God and had to be corrected. The disciples were in a storm **because they obeyed Christ and had to be perfected**. Jesus had tested them in a storm before, when He was in the boat with them (Mat_8:23-27). But now He tested them by being *out of the boat*.

Many Christians have the **mistaken idea that obedience to God's will produces “smooth sailing.”** But this is not true. “In the world you shall have tribulation,” Jesus promised (Joh_16:33). When we find ourselves in the storm because we have obeyed the Lord, **we must remember that He brought us here and He can care for us.**

Mat 14:23 And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.

“He is praying for me.” – v. 23

This entire scene is a dramatic picture of the church and the Lord today. God's people are on the sea, in the midst of a storm. Yet **Jesus Christ is in heaven “making intercession for us”** (Rom_8:34). He saw the disciples and knew their plight (Mar_6:48), just as He sees us and knows our needs. He feels the burdens that we feel and knows what we are going through (Heb_4:14-16). Jesus was praying for His disciples, that their faith would not fail.

If you knew that Jesus Christ was in the next room, praying for you, would it not give you new courage to endure the storm and do His will? Of course it would. He is not in the next room, **but He is in heaven interceding for you. He sees your need, He knows your fears, and He is in control of the situation.**

Mat 14:24-25 But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. [25] Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.

“He will come to me.” – v.25

Often we feel like Jesus has deserted us when we are going through the hard times of life. In the Psalms, David complained that God seemed far away and unconcerned. Yet he knew that God would ultimately rescue him. Even the great Apostle Paul got into a situation so difficult he felt “burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life” (2Co_1:8 2, nasb). **Jesus always comes to us in the storms of life.** “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you” (Isa_43:2 2, nasb). He may not come at the time we think He should come, because He knows when we need Him the most. He waited until the ship was as far from land as possible, so that all human hope was gone. He was testing the disciples' faith, and this meant removing every human prop.

Why did Jesus walk on the water? To show His disciples that the very thing they feared (the sea) was only a staircase for Him to come to them. Often we fear the difficult experiences of life (such as surgery or bereavement), only to discover that these experiences bring Jesus Christ closer to us.

Why did they not recognize Jesus? Because they were not looking for Him. Had they been waiting by faith, they would have known Him immediately. Instead, they jumped to the false conclusion that the appearance was that of a ghost. Fear and faith cannot live in the same heart, for fear always blinds the eyes to the presence of the Lord.

Mat 14:26-27 And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. [27] But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

"He will help me grow."

This was the whole purpose of the storm, to help the disciples grow in their faith. After all, Jesus would one day leave them, and they would face many storms in their ministries. They had to learn to trust Him even though He was not present with them, and even though it looked as though He did not care.

Mat 14:28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

Now our center of interest shifts to Peter. Before we criticize Peter for sinking, let's honor him for his **magnificent demonstration of faith. He dared to be different.** Anybody can sit in the boat and watch. But it takes a person of real faith to leave the boat and walk on the water.

Mat 14:29-30 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. [30] But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

What caused Peter to sink? **His faith began to waver because he took his eyes off the Lord and began to look at the circumstances around him.** "Why did you doubt?" Jesus asked him (Mat_14:31). This word translated *doubt* carries the meaning of "standing uncertainly at two ways." **Peter started out with great faith but ended up with little faith because he saw two ways instead of one.**

We must give Peter credit for *knowing* that he was sinking and for crying out to the Lord for help. He cried out when he was "beginning to sink" and not when he was drowning. Perhaps this incident came to Peter's mind years later when he wrote in his first epistle: "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers" (1Pe_3:12).

Mat 14:31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

This experience was difficult for Peter, but it helped him to grow in his knowledge of himself and of the Lord. The storms of life are not easy, but they are necessary. They teach us to trust Jesus Christ alone and to obey His Word no matter what the circumstances may be. It has well been said, "Faith is not believing in spite of evidence, but obeying in spite of consequence."

Mat 14:32-33 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. [33] Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

"He will see me through."

If Jesus says, "Come," then that word is going to accomplish its intended purpose. Since He is the "author and finisher of our faith" (Heb_12:2), **whatever He starts, He completes. We may fail along the way, but in the end, God will succeed.** Jesus and Peter walked on the water *together* and went to the ship.

Peter's experience turned out to be a blessing to the other disciples as well as to himself. When they saw the power of Jesus Christ, in conquering and calming the storm, **they could only fall down and worship Him.** When Jesus calmed the first storm (Mat_8:23-27), the disciples said, "What manner of Man is this?" But now their clear testimony was, "Thou art the Son of God!"

SUMMARY:

He brought you here! He is praying for you! He will come to me! He will help me to grow! He will see me through!

What am I to do?

Be thankful for all things! Be in the Word every day! Be in prayer always! Be reliant upon the Holy Spirit!

He is Able to Deliver Thee – William Ogden

'Tis the grandest theme through the ages rung; 'Tis the grandest theme for a mortal tongue;

'Tis the grandest theme that the world e'er sung, "Our God is able to deliver thee."

Refrain: He is able to deliver thee, He is able to deliver thee;

Though by sin oppressed, go to Him for rest; "Our God is able to deliver thee."

'Tis the grandest theme in the earth or main; 'Tis the grandest theme for a mortal strain;

'Tis the grandest theme, tell the world again, "Our God is able to deliver thee." (Refrain)

'Tis the grandest theme, let the tidings roll, To the guilty heart, to the sinful soul;

Look to God in faith, He will make thee whole, "Our God is able to deliver thee." (Refrain)