

7-29-18 Evening Message
LESSON FROM PETER WALKING ON THE WATER

SCRIPTURE TEXT:

Matthew 14:24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.

Matthew 14:25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

Matthew 14:26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

Matthew 14:27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

Matthew 14:28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

Matthew 14:29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

Matthew 14:30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

Matthew 14:31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

Matthew 14:32 And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.

Matthew 14:33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

REVIEW: This morning we said,

If we are going to have confidence, have it in the Lord. HE IS OUR CONFIDENCE.

If there be any greatness, let us have it in the Lord. HE ALONE IS GREAT.

If there is boasting, any pride, let us be proud of and boast in the Lord. He alone is exalted.

REVIEW OF THIS MORNINGS MESSAGE.

I. LET THE LORD BE OUR CONFIDENCE.

II. LET THE LORD BE OUR GREATNESS.

Matthew 14:28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

Matthew 14:29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

I have no greatness, but I have a great God.

1. WHATEVER WE DO THAT IS GREAT SHOULD BE TO AUTHENTICATE HIS GREATNESS.

Look, the Lord is looking to get His people to authenticate His greatness.

IF THAT BE YOU:

Do you realize people do not know who the Lord is?

People do not believe that God is great.
People do really think that our Lord even did the things we read about.

**2. WHEN WE TAKE THE CREDIT FOR THE GREAT THINGS HE ALLOWS US TO DO,
THEN WE WILL START TO SINK.**

Matthew 14:30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

Matthew 14:31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

**III. IF THERE BE ANYTHING TO BOAST ABOUT LET US BOAST IN THE LORD.
HE IS OUR PRIDE.
HE IS OUR GLORY.**

Application:

As we go through this life storms will come and we can be assured that the Lord has not left us or forsaken us. If we get our eyes on the storm we may find ourselves sinking. When we get our eyes on the Lord He will lift us up. If we trust Him through the storm it may seem, at times, that He even lets us walk on water to get through the storms of this life.

Sometimes we have to admit that we are of little faith. We can almost hear the Lord saying to us:

Matthew 14:31 ... " O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"

**EVENING MESSAGE: WHEN THE LORD BID ME TO COME TO HIM
IT WAS LIKE WALKING ON WATER.**

Mark 6:48 And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.

This morning we brought out the truth that when Peter saw the Lord walking on the water it seemed like He was just going to pass him by. It was then that he cried out, LORD IF THAT IS YOU BID ME TO COME WITH YOU.

This reminds me of the old Fanny Crosby hymn:

Pass me not, O gentle Savior,
Hear my humble cry;
While on others Thou art calling,
Do not pass me by.

Refrain:
Savior, Savior,
Hear my humble cry,
While on others Thou art calling,
Do not pass me by.

Let me at Thy throne of mercy
Find a sweet relief;
Kneeling there in deep contrition,
Help my unbelief.

Trusting only in Thy merit,
Would I seek Thy face;
Heal my wounded, broken spirit,
Save me by Thy grace.

Thou the spring of all my comfort,
More than life to me,
Whom have I on earth beside Thee,
Whom in Heav'n but Thee.

The late hymnologist William J. Reynolds discovered that the inspiration for this hymn was the result of a visit to a prison by the poet during spring 1868. He notes: "After she had spoken and some of her hymns had been sung, she heard one of the prisoners cry out in a pleading voice, 'Good Lord, do not pass me by'; Following Doane's suggestion, she wrote a hymn that evening incorporating the line, "Pass me not, O gentle Savior."

The Bible says, whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. But when God reveals himself to you, it is up to us to seek after him.

Matthew 5:6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

That is when the Lord said, COME.. COME.. and a miracle took place, Peter rose above the elements of this world, the wind, the waves, the storm, and he walked on water to come to the Lord.

Folks, you are looking at one who walked on water to follow the Lord. It was like walking on water for me to follow the Lord.

In 1974 when I went to a little church in the Philadelphia area and heard a bunch of people giving testimonies about how Jesus changed their lives for the better, I realized that morning that the Lord was going to walk on by if I let that happen. I felt like this may be my last opportunity to get saved.

That morning I prayed a little prayer. LORD IF THIS IS YOU WHO BROUGHT ME TO THIS CHURCH, LORD IF THIS BE YOU I WILL TAKE YOU IF YOU TAKE ME. In other words, bid me to come and I will come. Receive me and I will receive you. I will follow you, Lord, but you will have to help me walk on water.

You see I was entangled in the world. I was a bartender, I played in a rock n roll band. My family was Roman Catholic. Back then, these endeavors were not in harmony with biblical teaching. Today the contemporary church probably would say there is nothing wrong with these activities. In other words, I didn't know how I could come to the Lord. I had the obstacles of my friends, my family, my livelihood, my career. THESE WERE THE WIND, THE WAVES, THE SEA. With me it seemed impossible. To me it seemed like I would have to walk on water. For

me to come to the Lord, it seemed I would have to walk on water to come to Him. In my mind it would take a miracle.

Suddenly, I arose above the world, the waves, the storms.

When I first got saved it was like walking on water. God was working in a miraculous way. I got saved, a friend of mine in the band named Ronnie Butko got saved, and a bunch of musician friends professed Christ. I met my wife around Christmas time 1974 and we got married August 2nd 1975.

Then I went to Bible college in 1976. I must confess the most turbulent years for me were those college years.

The first year of college my Father Died. As far as I know he never accepted the Lord. I went back to college and I confess I was disgusted by a lot of things I saw. I saw kids who came from Christian families, who were there just to have a good time and meet a boyfriend or girlfriend. I must confess in my heart I began to sink!

There was a lack of seriousness I saw in Christendom.

For me I left my family, my career, my livelihood, to pursue God's will. At times I wondered if I fit in. When my dad died, I was in my little trailer meditating on everything and I flipped open my Bible to John chapter 6.

John 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

John 6:66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

John 6:67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?

John 6:68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

John 6:69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

I read this. Jesus said no man can come to me except it were given unto him of my father. I thought it was God that did what He did in my life. No man, no college. I did not come to Bible College for man. I came there because I believe God wanted me to be there. I did not go to college to get a job or career. I went there because this is where I believed God led me.

Then I read these words: WILL YOU ALSO GO AWAY.

Then I read: To Whom shall we go.. thou hast the words of eternal life and we believe and are sure that thou art the Christ, the son of the living God. It was then in 1976 I wrote the Scripture Chorus "TO WHOM SHALL WE GO.."

When Jesus invited Peter to come to Him he got out of the ship and walked on water. When Peter got his eyes off of the Lord and was distracted by the wind and the waves and the storms of this life he began to sink. Even though his faith was weak, he cried out to Jesus and Jesus lifted him up and brought him back safely to the ship.

The storms and waves in my life were those college years, and difficulties, but I cried to the Lord and He lifted me up and set my feet safely on the dry ship like Peter. Then the wind and the waves calmed down!

I. WE CAN ONLY RISE ABOVE THIS WORLD IF THE LORD BIDS US TO COME TO HIM.

I realized that day when I got saved that the Lord was there and if I wanted to come to Him I better get with it before He passes me by.

But when I stepped out of my comfort zone and sought after Christ I realized that I would fail without Him.

Like so many people, we start our Christian experience with a joy and thrill and excitement. It is like walking on water. But as we look at the trials, of life, the wind, the rain, and the waves, we suddenly realize our frailties, and we start to doubt. It is then that we have to cry out to the Lord to sustain us.

We need the Lord not only to save us, but we need the Lord to keep us!

II. THE LORD WILL KEEP US FROM FALLING IF WE TRUST HIM!

Peter began to sink.

It is our faith that saves us.
It is our faith that sustains us.

We need not only cry out to the Lord for salvation, we need to cry out to Him to sustain us.

How we have forgotten this great work of God?

Those who are His He will keep.

John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

III. ULTIMATELY THE LORD WILL KEEP US UNTIL ALL THE STORMS OF LIFE ARE ENDED AND WE REACH THE OTHER SIDE.

Note the parallel passages

The sea of Galilee is only about 8 miles wide, but when they were rowing against the wind and could not use their sails to cross, it was taking them all night to try and do so.

Mark 6:48 And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.

Matthew 14:31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

Matthew 14:32 And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.

Matthew 14:33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

John 6:19 So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid.

John 6:20 But he saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid.

John 6:21 Then they willingly received him into the ship: and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went.

As quickly as Jesus picked Peter Up and brought him back into the ship it was as if immediately they were on the other side and crossed over.

As soon as the Lord got in the ship the wind, and adverse weather stopped.
And as soon as He got in the ship they were safely on land and had crossed over the sea.

No accidents with God. The storm was on purpose, all the trials and hardships of this life are on purpose.

Sometimes in our life it seems that we are rowing against the wind the whole time. This is by design to get us to trust in the Lord. Before yo know it, almost immediately we will pass over on the other side and our ship will end its journey and all our struggles will be over.

When we reach the other side,
When at anchor safe we ride,
In the morning light so fair,
Loving lips will greet us there.

Refrain:
Arms of love will welcome us,
To our home forevermore,
And a thankful pray'r we'll raise,
That our journeys all are o'er.

Conclusion:

So many people try Christ. Try Christianity.

This is not something you try on like a suit in a store and test it out for a while.

Can we do that? No, our journey with the Lord is till the end.

Fanny Crosby wrote in that great hymn, I shall know him.

When my lifework is ended, and I cross the swelling tide,
When the bright and glorious morning I shall see;
I shall know my Redeemer when I reach the other side,
And His smile will be the first to welcome me.

Another Hymn the Fanny Crosby wrote goes like this:

I must have the Savior with me,
For my faith at best is weak;
He can whisper words of comfort,
That no other voice can speak.

I must have the Savior with me
In the onward march of life,
Through the tempest and the sunshine,
Through the battle and the strife.

I must have the Savior with me,
And His eye the way must guide,
Till I reach the vale of Jordan,
Till I gain the other side.

In 1974 Frank Bissol walked on water. There have been many storms in my life, and maybe even more to come, but one thing is for sure, when I cry to Jesus he will carry me through these storms till I reach the other side and all the storms will cease!