

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

Be of Good Cheer!

Matthew 14:22-36

Hopefully won't get in trouble today!

John's death, Jesus' mourning

Feeding the 5,000

[Pray]

14:22-27

Immediately left

DGC there were several reasons why Jesus did this. He did this because He wanted to be alone to pray; because He wanted to escape the crowd and get some rest;

John 6:14-15 tells us that the crowd responded to the miraculous feeding with a rush of messianic expectation. If the disciples shared this enthusiasm — perhaps sensing that now was the time to openly promote Jesus as Messiah the King — then it was more important than ever for Jesus to get the disciples away from the excited crowd.

Sometimes it's time to go.

Again, Jesus doing the OPPOSITE of what a ministry growth “expert” would tell you today

Sea of Galilee

13m N/S, 7m E/W

Nazareth, several miles to the west, sale to Capernaum northeast
then to Gennesaret Northwest

Now did Jesus get any sleep? Maybe, maybe not.

But He got rest for his soul in prayer.

Where do we find our rest?

- Rest stops on trips
- Can Nap and not rest
- Depression and sleep - just avoiding the problems
- Hobbies, vacations

- Good friendships - ahh, to have an ear to talk to

Insomnia doesn't necessarily mean you've got sin or haven't given your stress over to God, but it's a good opportunity to make sure!

Our bodies need rest, but so do our souls

"Secret prayer fats the soul, as secret morsels feed the body." (Trapp)

Nocturnal, Diurnal

We're designed to be awake in the day, and sleep at night

Jesus got up early, but we also see him up late here.

DGC "In the midst of His great ministry to others, He did not — He could not — neglect prayer."

**What's keeping you up at night? What worries you?
What bothers you enough to lose your rest over?**

Sometimes you have to be up late or up early

Red eye flight

Road trip

Work night shift, graveyard shift

Fourth watch

1. Sunset + 3 hours (6-9?)
2. 9-midnight
3. Midnight - 3am
4. **3am - sunrise** (6am)

Then it's hours of the day, 3rd hour = 9am

Wind was contrary

Opposite

- Winds of fortune
- Sea lanes
- Windy days, clothes blowing, doors off the hinges

Can't get ahead in life.

Trying to work as hard you can, do all you can do - and still blown back.

Bills. Setbacks. Troubles.

Where is Jesus in all of that? Are you looking for him in the midst of it?

Region would get sudden storms. It's basically a big lake, so how tall could the waves get? This certainly isn't the North Atlantic in the winter.

For the disciples, seasoned fisherman, it was enough to put them in danger, or at least, prevent them from progress.

Ever see someone trying to get out to sea with large waves and a boat too small? You're not getting anywhere. No matter how hard you row.

Some thoughts about maybe it wasn't a normal storm, one spiritually brought on by the enemy

"Prince of the power of the air" "Job's house destroyed and family killed by tornado"

They were out there and in trouble when Jesus wasn't with them

- Ever have a bad day, probably just because you didn't start the day with prayer and devotional time in the Word?
- Ever have a bad day when you've had that time?
- **Two totally different days.**

Jesus walks to them...

How many hours, how many miles? How far away were they?

- Was he just on shore and sees them struggling and has the plan to meet them there.
- Were they late, not showing up, and like a good dad goes out to find his kid broken down on the side of the road?

...On the water!

I love the physics of this

Trying to picture this...

Did he go up and down with the waves?

Did he just walk flat through the waves?

How wet was he?

**Jesus reveals his supernatural power by defying physics!
Making something liquid solid enough to hold him.**

**Colossians 1:17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.
Put together, hold together
Have their being!**

Atoms. Electrons. Neutrons. Strong & Weak nuclear forces. Magnetism.

Simulation theory.

String theory.

**He'd stop at nothing to get to his disciples.
No little storm, no amount of water, no need for sleep.**

**Wouldn't we do the same for those we love?
Use everything in our power to get to them?**

Where then does our faith stop?

When there's a bad day? A little rain? A little wind? A little unexpectedly high utility bill?

Psalm 121:4 Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep.

It's a ghost! The superstition of the disciples!

After the resurrection he'd just appear in the room, walk through the walls, ascend to heaven, yet still be able to eat with them - not a ghost then and not a ghost now.

The reality of God quickly breaks through any superstitious ideas.

Even ones that sound biblical

"The flag looked like an angel above him. It's a sign from God that he's anointed!"

What did the cry sound like? A bunch of little girls?

The screams my girls make are ear-piercing

He immediately spoke to them: Be of good cheer! (courage)

Guys, it's me! No need to be little scaredy-cats out here.

So many times in the Bible it's said to those in the middle of the event...

DO NOT BE AFRAID, BE OF GOOD COURAGE...

Why, because they're scared.

We're going to get scared, spooked, bothered, tossed in life...what is our reaction?

**Who has the right to tell us to NOT BE AFRAID
Or worse...CALM DOWN.**

DGC i. There are two good reasons to put away fear. One reason may be that the problem is not nearly as bad as one had thought; perhaps you are afraid because you exaggerate the danger. The other reason is that even though the problem may be real, there is an even greater solution and help at hand.

:28-33

Here comes Peter with his bright ideas and doubts again

If it's you, tell me to come out on the water

If it was actually a ghost, and ghosts were real, why couldn't the ghost say this?

Peter saw the wind

Boisterous - strong, mighty
strong, violent, forcibly uttered, **firm**, sure

**His faith shifted from Jesus being firm and making the water firm
Into the strength and firmness of the wind.**

He began to sink.

It wasn't immediate like jumping in

That sinking feeling

In life...are you sinking? Swimming? Barely treading water?

our life begins to fall apart as we lose faith, turn our eyes

A life led by the Spirit will not be tossed

Ephesians 4:14 NKJV - that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

James 1:6 NKJV - But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

Probably even speaking from experience, having doubted his half-brother Jesus was indeed God

But instead, we are to blown by the wind of God

John 3:8 "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

We look down on Peter, but the guy didn't even have the Holy Spirit yet. He's trying! But his faith keeps failing!

Have you received the Holy Spirit?

Saving faith to dynamis power in your life

Some debate, some receive in different ways

Receiving by laying on of hands

If your life is not marked by it, ask!

Why do you doubt? Peter's doubt started in the boat.

He doubted what God said to Him. It's me! Do not be afraid!

Jesus is just there. Jesus did what Peter asked. He's walking on the water. In the storm.

What's to doubt? Why change your mind on what God is doing in your life?

Oh, because the wind is still blowing? The storm hasn't stopped?

Has that changed who Jesus is? What He's doing?

What he's told you to do?

So often we get turned around, or worse, sink, because the life of faith doesn't get easier. Why do we doubt what God has said just because the world keeps being the world?

DGC iii. Peter here shows us the weakness of little faith.

- Little faith is often found in places where we might expect great faith.
- Little faith is far too eager for signs.
- Little faith is apt to have too high an opinion of its own power.
- Little faith is too much affected by its surroundings.
- Little faith is too quick to exaggerate the peril.

iv. Yet Peter also shows us some of the strengths of little faith.

- Little faith is true faith.
- Little faith will obey the word of Jesus.
- Little faith struggles to come to Jesus.
- Little faith will accomplish great things for a time.
- Little faith will pray when it is in trouble.
- Little faith is safe, because Jesus is near.

Why do we trust the storm to win over God?

They get in the boat. The wind ceased.

It seems the whole purpose of the wind was to keep Jesus and the disciples apart. So what's the purpose of the storms in our lives?

That we would worship Jesus for who He is. The son of God.

A reminder of Matthew 8:23-27

Asleep in the boat, a great storm

Matthew 8:23-27 NKJV - Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. Then His disciples came to [Him] and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" But He said to them, "**Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?**" **Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. So the men marveled, saying, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"**

:34-36

Gennesaret "a harp" - a fertile region

Something could be said about storms popping up in life trying to prevent us from getting to the fertile places God has for us to go...

Jesus recognized...again. All the sick brought to him...again. All healed...again.

Touch the hem of his garment.

People make superstitions about fabric and prayer cloths and other objects when how God really works is just having faith in Jesus' ability.

Made "perfectly whole." preserved through danger, keep from perishing

This is the power of Jesus. Only Jesus.

In storms. In sickness. In need. In hunger. In sorrow.

So where will you go? What will you put your faith in?

The trouble or the savior?

The wind? The waves? Or the one who has power over them?

Be of good courage, Jesus is there.

Let Him fill you with His Holy Wind