

# **Matthew 14:22-36**

## ***Lessons In The Storm***

September 15, 2019 – Rev. Rick Lyon

### **Intro**

God takes anyone, who in faith, comes to Him.

**1 Cor. 1:26-27** - Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things--things counted as nothing.

God accepts you as you are--but He won't leave you where you are.

**2 Cor. 5:17** - If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed; the new has come.

Jesus said the feeding of the 5,000 was a test.

**John 6:5-6** - Jesus said to Philip, "Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?" He asked him this to test him.

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### **Lesson #1 - Don't lose your focus.**

*What was the focus/purpose of Jesus coming into the world?*

**1 Timothy 1:15** - Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

**Luke 19:10** - The Son of Man has come to seek and save the lost.

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**John 6:15** - Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king.

**v. 22** - ***Immediately*** Jesus ***made*** His disciples get into a boat and go before Him to the other side, while ***He*** sent the multitude away.

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Christian life: *"To know Him and to make Him known"*?

There's a story in the OT about Elisha and his servant Gehazi...

- Elisha heals Naaman of leprosy
- Naaman is so appreciative that he offers Elisha great riches
- Elisha refuses to take anything
- But Gehazi runs after Naaman and asks for clothes and money

**2 Kings 5:26** - "Is this the time to receive money and clothing, olive groves and vineyards, sheep and cattle, and male and female servants?"

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**Kelli Mahoney**: We're human, and we tend to be very self-focused. It's easy for us to get lost in our problems and ourselves to a point where we lose sight of God.

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When we become too focused on ourselves, we're no longer focusing on God. Obviously, God loves us and He wants us to care for ourselves but He designed us for more than just that. He also wants us to care for one another and to love Him.

**v.23** - When Jesus had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves.

A repeat exam...

- **In Matthew 8 they faced a similar test**
- **Jesus and His disciples encounter a furious storm**
- **Jesus is asleep...**

The main difference between the storm in Matthew 8 and the storm here is:

- **In the first storm, Jesus was in the boat with them**
- ***Where was Jesus in this storm? (On the mountain praying)***

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## **Lesson #2 - Someone is praying for you--always.**

**Hebrews 7:25** - Jesus is able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since *He always lives to make intercession for them.*

Jesus is always praying for you.

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**Robert MacCheyne**: "If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I wouldn't fear a million enemies. Yet, the distance makes no difference--HE IS PRAYING FOR ME!"

Sometimes because we don't see or feel God, we think He's absent.

But right before Jesus left the earth, He said to His disciples: "**I'm with you always, even to the end of the age.**"

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### **Lesson #3 - Don't quit!**

**The end of v.23** - When *evening* came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

**Mark's gospel**: They were rowing hard and struggling against the wind and waves.

At 6 p.m. (evening), they were in the middle of the lake--and 9 hours later--they were still there.

The wind was against them, the waves were against them--*why didn't they just turn around and stop fighting?*

Because Jesus had told them to go to the other side.

They were determined to do what Jesus told them to do.

If they had turned around and stopped struggling--they wouldn't have experienced the miracle they were about to experience.

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**v.25** - Now in the fourth watch of the night (between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m.) Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It's a ghost!” And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Be of good cheer! It is I; don't be afraid.”

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#### **Lesson #4 - Don't be afraid to get out of the boat.**

**v.28** - Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it's You, command me to come to You on the water.” So He said, “Come.”

**v.29** - And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.

*Why did Peter walk on the water? To go to Jesus!*

**v.30** - But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!”

A lot of people emphasize the fact that Peter took his eyes off Jesus and started to sink--and that's true.

But, PETER WALKED ON THE WATER!

**Terry Trivette**: The other disciples were just fine in the boat. The boat was solid. The boat was safe. But there's always that one fanatic, one lunatic in the bunch that always wants to push the boundaries and break the comfort zone. In this case, as in many others, it was Peter. Peter was passionate. Peter wanted more than just the status quo. What I especially love about Peter's passion here is that he wanted to be with Jesus. If that meant out of the boat and on the water, then so be it. It raises a

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good question. Where are you willing to go to be with Jesus? There are times when walking with Him is anything but the safe option. There are times when following Him means you'll have to leave the confines of your safe, comfortable, little boat.

**v.31** - Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

- *Where were they?*
- *They were in the water away from the boat...*
- *How did they get back into the boat?*
- **I believe Jesus and Peter walked together on the water.**

**Isaiah 43:2-3** - When you pass through the waters, I'll be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they won't sweep over you...For I'm the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

### **Lesson #5 - Through our storms, we can come to know God better.**

**Matthew 8:27** - “Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”

**Matthew 14:33** - Then those who were in the boat came and worshipped Him, saying, "Truly, You're the Son of God."

God wants you to have the same experience...

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