

Title: A Word to Little Faith

Text: Matthew 14: 22-

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Matthew 14: 22: And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.

It was our sovereign, GodMan, Mediator, the Lord Jesus who constrained each of us to get into the ship. The Son of God called us in sovereign power. The Son of God, Jesus, constrains his disciples to get into fellowship with him and with one another.

Our sovereign Savior sent the multitude away. The multitude would have taken Christ by force and made him a king. But in the day of his power, Christ made us willing to submit to him. He sanctified us from the multitude of the world.

Matthew 14: 23: And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

When our Substitute finished the work the Father sent him to do, he went up into the mountain apart where he intercedes for his people. When our Substitute had made his elect the righteousness of God, when he had put away our sin, when he had perfected us forever before holy God, then he went up into the heavenly mount apart. There he everlives to intercede for his people.

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

Is that not a good description of a believers life of faith? We are in fellowship. But the ship is now in the midst of the sea tossed with waves. Every day we find the wind is contrary to us. But child of God get this next verse.

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

The Lord Jesus Christ—our Savior—is the Son of God. He walks on the sea. All providence is our Lord working his sovereign will.

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

Our Lord Jesus comes to us and how prone we are to be troubled and cry out for fear. But our Savior comes to comfort us. He speaks right now to you and to me in spirit—into your heart—and says, “*Be of good cheer, it is I; be not afraid.*” In those sweet times when the Lord reveals himself in our hearts, we have strong faith.

Matthew 14: 28: And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. 29: And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

One moment the only thing we can see are the wind and the waves. But when Christ speaks into the heart, things below vanish and behold Christ in faith. He strengthens faith and we are like Peter, we can walk on the troubled sea. The cares that troubled us vanish. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

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

When Peter was looking only to Christ he was walking by faith. Then Peter’s carnal eye looked below and *saw the wind boisterous*. Peter was strong in faith while he was looking only to Christ; but *when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid*. Walking by faith looking to Christ, Peter was walking on the troubled sea; but *when he looked to the wind and waves, he began to sink*. But what did Peter do?

He cried, saying, Lord, save me.

There is but one reason Peter had faith to cry, “Lord, save me.” Remember, our Lord told Peter, “Peter, I’ve prayed for you that your faith fail not.”

The carnal eye made Peter’s faith little. He began to sink. But the Son of God was still there walking on the troubled sea! Christ Jesus is the Faithful One. Our Savior is the Faithful One—the perfection of Faith. Nothing about the wind and the waves made him afraid. He rules them. The Son of God was the faith of Peter’s faith. And he is the faith of our faith. Though the carnal made his faith little, it was still only by the Son of God that Peter cried, “*Lord save me!*” So it is with us.

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?

Immediately—without delay—the Savior stretched forth his hand and caught him. There is one Greek word from which “O thou of little faith” is translated. Actually, the Lord called Peter the name, “Little faith!” The Lord said unto him, “*Little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?*”

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

Try to imagine the sight. One minute the wind is howling, the waves are white capping. But when the Lord came into the ship with Peter, *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.

Proposition: The Lord Jesus is the Son of God who rules all providence to keep us walking by faith looking to him alone.

CHRIST SANCTIFIED US

The Son of God our Savior is who sanctified us. He sanctified us to himself. He rules all providence on our behalf from his throne in glory and keeps us sanctified unto him.

The Lord Jesus went up into the mount to pray. After our Substitute accomplished the redemption of his people, he arose to the right hand of God in heavenly Mt Zion. There he intercedes for each of his redeemed.

Romans 8:34: Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

This same Lord Jesus, the Son of God, constrained you and me to enter into the fellowship of his grace. We were no different than the multitude he sent away. They had their earthly bellies filled and they thought he was their meal ticket! We did not worship the Lord Jesus but only wanted carnal handouts. But what grace! While he sent the multitudes away, he constrained his disciples to get into the ship.

That is a good illustration of what sanctification is! Christ is the Sanctification of his people. In the day of his power, the Lord sanctified us by his grace. By his word, he constrained us to enter fellowship with him through faith.

Psalms 110: 3: Thy people *shall be* willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth.

Zechariah 4:6...Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

Brethren, as we see with the apostle Peter, it is only by his sovereign, omnipotent hand of our Savior that we do not sink in the waves. He alone keeps us sanctified unto himself!

CHRIST RULES ALL PROVIDENCE FOR HIS PEOPLE

It was the Lord who sent the storm and ruled the storm. He rules all providence just for his people. No sooner had the apostles obeyed our Lord, no sooner had they entered the ship, than there came a great storm. Brethren, never imagine that the life of faith is a life void of tribulation. The Lord spoke through the apostle Paul,

Acts 14:22: Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

Matthew 10:21: And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against *their* parents, and cause them to be put to death. 22: And ye shall be hated of all *men* for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

John 16: 33: These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Our Savior sent the storm. Right now our omnipotent Savior rules all providence. He does it just for you who he has saved.

Matthew 14: 24: But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. 25: And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

He sent the wind. And they did what we do, they tried to save themselves.

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.

The whole time the Lord Jesus "*saw them toiling.*" He waited until the fourth watch of the night, around 3am. And "*in the fourth watch he went to them walking on the sea.*" What a contrast between Christ Jesus the Faithful One and his believing children. They were rowing hard while the wind pushed them farther back. But he came to them walking on the sea. Him walking on the sea shows us he was perfectly faithful as our Mediator, trusting the Father.

But the whole time he saw them. Child of God we are never out of the watchful, protective eye of the Son of God our Savior!

Psalm 121: 2: My help *cometh* from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. 3 He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. 4 Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

Psalm 32:8: I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye

Brethren, there is no remote possibility, Christ will permit us to be separated from him. He bought us with his own blood. He justified us from our sins by laying down his life for us. The same justice that demanded we die, now demands we live and be with him forever!

But he waited until the fourth watch of the night to come to them. Why? To show us how weak we are. To show us how incapable we are of saving ourselves, even from the wind. Our Lord will keep us knowing he alone is the Faith of our faith!

A WORD ABOUT FAITH

Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God. When the Lord spoke, saying, Matthew 6: 27...***Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. 28: And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if [since] it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. 29: And he said, Come.***

It is only by the Lord Jesus speaking in power into our hearts that he gives us faith to come to him. And only by his word that he keeps us walking by faith. When Peter desired to come to the Lord, our Lord said, "Come!"

Our Savior never forbids anyone who desires to come to him. Has he spoken to you personally? Has he given you faith to believe on him? Has he put the desire in your heart to come to him? Then he bids you come!

But we can only come to him through faith. We can only walk through this life of tribulation looking to the Lord Jesus in faith. While Peter looked to the Lord in faith he walked on the sea! The Lord did not first stop the wind from blowing; the Lord did not first calm the sea; the Lord spoke and strengthened Peter's faith so that Peter had no regard for any of that!

Brethren, it is only by our Savior speaking faith into the heart, strengthening faith by his word, that we have faith to walk through the storms of this life. Today, if Christ spoke to any of us, like he did Peter that night, then you could walk on water!

Philippians 4:13: I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Scripture tells us to "Sanctify the Lord in our hearts!" Behold him above all! More powerful than all! While we look to Christ in faith, he is sanctified in our hearts. Then we know and believe he is all-powerful ruling the storm. Then faith believes he is above all and rules all and we have no regard to the tribulation all around us.

Here is how we get into trouble, v30, "*But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink.*" Peter was walking by faith in the heart. BUT! Then his carnal eye looked to the wind boisterous. And he began to sink.

Brethren, remember the parenthesis in 2 Corinthians 5:7: "*(we walk by faith, not by sight:)*." It is impossible to do both! The carnal eye makes us sanctify the wind and the waves as more powerful than the Son of God! The Lord tells us what happened. Doubt entered in through Peter's carnal eye looking to the wind. Carnal reason told Peter, "This wind is stronger than your Savior! You cannot walk on water!" It is true, of himself Peter could not. It was only by the Lord that he did it, in the first place. So when doubt entered, Peter began to sink. That is what happens to us. When our carnal eye looks to the storm then doubt enters and we begin to sink.

But our Lord stood firm; he did not begin to sink; he stood on the sea as if it were concrete. He is the Faithful One. It is only by HIM that he keeps us walking by faith so that we do not drown in the stormy sea!.

Matthew 6: 30...and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. 31: And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O "Little Faith", wherefore didst thou doubt? 32: And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased. 33: Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

I ask myself, "Little faith, why did you doubt?" I know the answer. The sin that so easily besets us is unbelief. It is through our carnal eye, carnal reason, that doubt enters.

Hebrews 12: 1...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Here is the good news. Christ shall keep his saints walking by faith, looking to the Lord Jesus in faith. It will be only by the Faithful One bringing us to cry out, "*Lord, save me!*" It is only by the Faithful One reaching forth his hand. It is only by the Faithful One coming into fellowship with you and causing the wind to cease.

Galatians 2:20: I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live BY THE FAITH OF THE SON OF GOD, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Each time the Lord saves us and brings us back into fellowship with him, we hit our face at his feet in faith and give all glory to him, *“Of a truth thou art the Son of God.”*

Amen!