



Text: Matthew 14:22-33 NAS 2020

By the Holy Spirit: Let's ♣understand and ♣apply the Bible in our lives!

Introduction: Dear friends: May this sermon encourage us to:

- Marvel at Jesus' greatness,
- Keep our eyes focused on Jesus, and
- Trust in Jesus to save us!

What events led up to today's gospel reading?

Matthew Chapter 13: Jesus was in **Capernaum**, on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee, and told seven important parables about the kingdom of God.

Matthew Chapter 14:

- Jesus received news that John the Baptizer had been put to death. When Jesus attempted to get away to **Bethsaida** to mourn, many people followed Him.

- When Jesus saw the people, He focused on their needs and worked miracles: (1) healing their sick and (2) multiplying the loaves and fish to feed thousands!
1. **Today's Setting:** ²² **Immediately [Jesus] compelled [*strongly urged*] the disciples to get into the boat and to go ahead of Him to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee], while He sent the crowds away.**
 - a. Jesus sent them ahead, implying that He would eventually join them.
 - b. Jesus may have told the crowd about John and requested time alone to mourn.
 2. **Talking Things Over:** ²³ **After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone. //**

♦The crowd was gone, ♦the mountain location was probably secluded, and ♦Jesus turned to His Father in prayer. Whenever we are in need, let us turn to ♦our Father in heaven, ♦His Son, and ♦Christian friends.
 3. **The Boat and the Disciples:** ²⁴ **...the boat was already a long distance from the land [13x8; Erie: 241x57], battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary. //**

Jesus was still on the mountain, but the boat and the disciples were experiencing rough seas. Did Jesus know? Yes! Was Jesus permitting the struggle for their good? Yes! Does He do the same in our lives? Yes! **James** wrote: "Consider it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And

let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing" (1:2-4).

4. **Jesus Showed His Greatness:** ²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night [3 to 6 am] [Jesus] came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "**Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.**" // Even though the disciples witnessed many miracles: ♦calming the storm, ♦healing the sick, and ♦raising the dead, *it seems that they continued to forget His greatness.* Much is impossible for us **but let us always remember that all things are possible for JESUS!** Therefore, with our God-given trust in Him, **let us live lives of fearlessness!**
5. **Peter's Faith Surged:** ²⁸ Peter responded and said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." ²⁹ And He said, "**Come!**" And Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water, and came toward Jesus. // Try to picture Jesus, the boat, the waves, and Peter walking on the water toward Jesus. In **Mark 9** Jesus said, "All things are possible for the one who believes" (23). Let us also ♦**believe** in God, ♦**trust** His word, and ♦**live** with extraordinary courage!
6. **Peter Sank:** ³⁰ But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and when he began to sink, he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" // Did you notice what happened? **Peter was focused and walking😊!** **Then distracted and sinking😞.** Like Peter, we will have our

ups and downs. However, let us ➡be convinced of Jesus' greatness and ➡keep our focus on Him!

7. **Jesus Saved:** ³¹ **Immediately Jesus reached out with His hand and took hold of [Peter], and said to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”** // What about us, are we **doubters** or **doers**? Check which ones are true for you:

- ☐ **James 2:17–18** — Living faith produces works.
- ☐ **2 Corinthians 5:7** — Walk by faith, not by sight.
- ☐ **Hebrews 12:1–2** — Run the race, fixing your eyes on Jesus.

8. **Jesus Is Worthy:** ³² **When they got into the boat, the wind stopped.** ³³ **And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, “You are truly God’s Son!”** // We have heard those words, but where are they?

- a. Only believed as a fact in our minds **or**
- b. Embraced by our believing hearts – resulting in:
♥forgiveness and peace, ♥growth in the Bible,
and ♥doing whatever the Bible says!

Let Us Pray: Dear Jesus, **You are God’s Son!** Nothing is impossible for You, *and all things are possible for us when we are focused on You!* Therefore, help us to ➡be focused, ➡remain focused, and ➡live with courage and unto God’s glory!

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