

MIRACLES OF JESUS

FAITH WALK - MATTHEW 14:23B-33

INTRODUCTION

A. Parallel Passages for Matthew 14:22-33 are Mark 6:45-52 and John 6:14-21

B. Context

1. Jesus had just fed the 5,000 with five loaves and two fish.
2. He ordered the disciples to take the boat to Capernaum without Him (22), *Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.*
 - a. It gave them opportunity to consider the significance of what had just taken place when Jesus fed so many with so little.
 - b. It gave them time to get some rest which was the original reason they had come to that place.
 - c. It got the disciples away from the crowd which could have become dangerous.
 - 1) He knew the people wanted to make Him king, John 6:15, *Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.*
 - 2) The disciples could have mistakenly sided with the crowd. William Taylor, *But the disciples, just at this stage in their development, were more in sympathy with the crowd than with their Master in this matter.*
2. Jesus dispersed the crowd and went to pray (23a), *And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray.*
 - a. Jesus took time to pray.
 - 1) The crowd wanted to make Him king even like Satan who offered a kingdom to Him.
 - 2) Jesus knew that He would not become king without the cross.
 - 3) He prayed for His disciples and all those who would follow Him by faith, Hebrews 7:25, *...He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.*
 - 4) He prayed for the crowds who were like sheep without a shepherd.
 - b. Do we take time to pray?
 - 1) Jesus had just ministered to thousands of people. He was busier than we are.
 - 2) He was on a mission of utmost importance, to make payment for our sins. His work is greater than ours.
 - 3) He always put the cross before he crown. He majored on the majors where we too often major on the minors.
 - 4) He knew His need to pray. What about us?

A. Jesus went to the disciples on the Sea of Galilee (23b-27),

1. The disciples were struggling against a strong storm (23b-24), *When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them.*
 - a. It was shortly after sunset and the disciples had rowed about three or four miles according to John 6:19.
 - b. The disciples had no idea they would be fighting strong winds throughout the night.
 - c. It would be a night of physical struggle but also spiritual instruction.
 - d. Difficulties in our lives normally come unannounced.
2. Jesus went to them by walking on the turbulent sea (25-27)
 - a. Jesus came to them in the midst of the storm (25), *And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea.*
 - 1) It was the fourth watch, between 3 and 6 a.m.
 - 2) He walked from shore directly to them by walking on the water.
 - 3) He demonstrated His power over nature because of Who He is, God the Son.
 - 4) Old Testament passages describe God's control over the seas.
 - a) *Isaiah 43:16, Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters.*
 - b) *Job 9:8, who alone stretched out the heavens and trampled the waves of the sea.*
 - b. The disciples were terrified when they saw Jesus walking on the water (26), *But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear.*
 - 1) They thought He was a spirit shrouded by the rain.
 - 2) It was probably because they did not think anyone could walk on water, not even Jesus.

c. Jesus identified Himself and told them not to fear (27), *But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."*

1) Jesus said *it is I*

a) It is better rendered, *I am*

b) He is identifying Himself as YHWH, I am Who I am, the name of God.

2) There was no reason to fear, the Lord of the universe was there right when they needed him.

3) Had they been crying out for help? Was He there because He knew their needs? It was probably both.

4) Charles Ryrie, *Today our Lord prays for us in heaven, but he also wants us to call on him in our times of need. Then he will respond with timely help. The greatest temptation we face is thinking we can get along without him.*

B. Peter joined Jesus on the water (28-31)

1. He asked Jesus for permission to meet Him on the water (28-29), *And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus.*

a. *If it is You*

1) It is better translated *since it is You.*

2) He believed it was possible to even walk on water since Jesus did.

3) He wanted to do what Jesus did since Jesus sent the disciples out in twos and they healed people and cast out demons.

b. At Jesus' command, Peter stepped out of the boat by faith and went to Jesus.

1) Have you ever asked Jesus for permission to do something extraordinary?

2) Do you believe He hears and will answer you?

3) John 10:27, *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.*

2. Peter was overcome by fear but was rescued by Jesus (30-31),

a. Peter cried to Jesus for help when he was surrounded by the storm (30), *But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me."*

1. Peter took his eyes off Jesus and looked at the storm.

2. Have you ever done that? What storms take your eyes off Jesus? Could it be health issues, financial problems, family troubles.

3. There are many storms on the sea of life but Peter turned his eyes back to Jesus and cried out for help.

4. Listen to the cry of the psalmist, *Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck. I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me.*

b. Jesus kept Peter from drowning but rebuked his loss of faith (31), *Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"*

1. Jesus delivered Peter when he cried for help.

a. Jesus immediately saved Peter by taking hold of him.

b. Have you had the King of Kings grab hold of you while you were sinking?

c. If so, you have never been the same. Faith is enlarged once you experience deliverance.

2. Jesus used the moment to teach Peter the importance of faith.

a. Peter found there is no place for faith and doubt together.

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

c. I am thankful that Jesus delivered Peter first and then taught him a lesson.

d. Tom Constable, *Jesus used this rebuke to help Peter and the other disciples see that consistent confidence in Himself was absolutely necessary.*

C. The storm ceased and Jesus received the disciples' worship (32-33)

1. The storm stopped when Jesus and Peter got into the boat (32), *And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.*

a. It was a beautiful picture of Jesus and Peter walking together through the storm and into the boat.

b. The storm ceased once the faith lesson ended.

c. According to John 6:21, once the storm ceased the boat was immediately where they were supposed to be.

d. Active faith in Christ overcomes any difficulty.

2. Those in the boat proclaimed Jesus as the Son of God (33), *And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."*
 - a. The disciples were astonished because they had not understood the sign of the loaves and fishes, Mark 6:51-52, *And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.*
 - b. The disciples were looking for a king but now they realized Jesus is the King of Kings.
 - c. Now, they had the answer to their question from the previous storm incident in Matthew 8:27, *And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"*
 - d. This miracle brought them to understand Who Jesus is - the first confession of Jesus' deity by the apostles.
 - e. Thomas Constable, *The stilling of the wind is not the climax of the story. The disciples' worship of Jesus is.*
 - f. The climax of our struggles is not that Jesus delivered us but that He is Immanuel, God with us.

<i>CONCLUSION</i>

- A. God sends trials upon us to enlarge our faith.
- B. God sends trials to teach us the depth of His love for us.
- C. God sends trials to confirm His message and His Messenger.