

## DO NOT WAVER

### Int.

1. Aim: To discuss the need for a strong faith that is steadfast.
2. Mt. 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**?"
3. Mt. 28:17 "And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some **doubted**."
4. The two words used: "Doubt" & "Doubted"
  - a. Greek word is "distazo"
  - b. Most English versions translate the word as "doubt"
  - c. Word in Greek comes from a word that means twice, or duo [which means two]
  - d. It means to be divided in mind - to be pulled two Ways - it implies uncertainty which way to take - said of believers whose faith is small.
  - e. Thayer defines the word as "to doubt, waver." Zondervan defines it as "to doubt, waver, hesitate."
5. The English word - WAVER - To sway undecided between choices : fluctuate in opinion, allegiance, or direction. - to be uncertain or undecided
6. Lesson:
  - a. The two verses and the use of this word
  - b. Application for us.

## Discussion

### I. THE USE OF THE WORD

A. Context Matt. 14:22-33

B. Mt. 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?”

1. Peter was walking on the water and he saw the wind - he became afraid and then began to sink.
2. Jesus told him that he had little faith!
3. Then Jesus asked him, “Why did you doubt?” -- The 20th century translation has it: “For what didst thou waver?”
4. Waver - means to fluctuate back and forth between two decisions.
5. Peter - the impulsive one had asked to walk on the water and He Did it! The Lord helped him. He came to Jesus. There was no reason for him to question that he could continue to safely walk on the water.
6. But he saw the wind. The enormity of what he was doing “hit” him. The devil was right there with the alternative view: “Look. This is dangerous. You could drown. People do not do this.”
7. Peter’s mistake was in giving heed to the tempter. He let his own faith and confidence diminish!
8. Then Jesus asked him, “Why did you waver?” Why were you uncertain or undecided?

C. Mt. 28:17 "And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted."

1. Jesus had been dead and was alive again. He proved that he was the Son of God.
2. He had appeared to them several times and even taught them after his resurrection. Jn. 21:14 "This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead."
3. They had felt his scars and knew it was that same Jesus. Jn. 20:24-29
4. He had served them breakfast and eaten with them. Jn. 21:9-14
5. The proofs are very strong that he was risen from the dead. Acts 1:3
6. Some did waver [Youngs translation] -Uncertain
  - a. The writer was honest to even admit that some wavered in their belief.
  - b. Some man would have written: "The evidence was so overwhelming that everyone was thoroughly convinced."
  - c. He would not have admitted that some wavered.
7. What would you have done?
  - a. Suppose you had been one of the 11. Would you have believed?
  - b. If you had seen all the proof and evidence would you have believed or would you have wavered?

D. Peter and some of the Apostles wavered!

E. The Lesson we learn is that we must not waver, be unsure or uncertain.

## **II. APPLICATION**

### A. Do not waver ... :

#### 1. About Forgiveness:

- a. When you obeyed the gospel your sins were washed away - Acts 22:16
- b. But some people waver about their forgiveness - uncertain, unsure - worried about their past sins - will not forgive themselves.
- c. As long as we walk in the light then we can have assurance and confidence -  
I Jn. 1:7
- d. Then we can know we have eternal life - I Jn. 5:13

#### 2. Putting First Things First

- a. We have doubts as to whether we will survive.
- b. Sometimes we put material things first in life
- c. Mt. 6:25-33 - Seek Ye First

#### 3. In the face of Persecution:

- a. I Thes. 2:14-16
- b. What would you do if your life or property were threatened because of your obedience to God?
- c. Would you remain steadfast or would you waver?

4. In times of discouragement:
  - a. Gal. 6:9 "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."
  - b. One of the greatest tools of the devil is discouragement.
  - c. There will be times of depression, discouragement in all our lives, and even times like this in a congregation.
  - d. During these times we must not waver.
  
5. About ethical matters:
  - a. The way of the Bible is right - ethical, moral
  - b. Times of temptation we are tempted to compromise - waver about right and wrong. Heb. 12:1 "lay aside every weight"
  - c. What will you do?
  
6. About Attendance:
  - a. Commanded to assemble - Heb. 10:25
  - b. When conflicts in attendance arise what will you do?
  - c. Some people waver - not decided - uncertain - unsure.
  - d. Be steadfast - be certain, be decided
  
7. About the Truth:
  - a. II Tim. 1:13
  - b. Men are attempting to change the truth in many areas today - [Bible authority, women's role, Marriage & Divorce, instrumental music, baptism]

- c. The truth cannot be changed, or altered or revised.
- d. We have the message of God, revealed, inspired, inerrant.
- e. Will you waver?

#### B. We should not waver!!!!

- 1. There is no reason for us to "go limping between two sides" - I Kings 18:21
- 2. We must be steadfast in our faith - I Pet. 5:9 - see v. 8 also
- 3. I Cor. 15:58 urges us: "Wherefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

### CONCLUSION

- 1. Peter was sustained on the water by the strength or power that came through faith in Jesus. Doubting or wavering is the opposite of faith. When he lost his faith he began to sink.
- 2. When we waver we begin to sink and go back into sin!
- 3. Be strong! Increase your faith!
- 4. II Pet. 1:5-11
  - a. Begins with faith
  - b. Add to your faith
  - c. Your faith will make you fruitful
  - d. If you waver it means you fall
  - e. Stand firm in your faith and you will be given the reward of an eternal kingdom

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