

WALKING ON WATER

Int.

1. Aim: To show some lessons we can learn from this great miracle.
2. All of the miracles of Jesus were important
 - a. John 20:30-31
 - i. Many other miracles that he performed
 - ii. In fact if all of the miracles and other things which Jesus did had been recorded the world could not have contained all the books.
 - b. Jn. 21:25
3. Mt. 14:22-33 - miracle of walking on the water
 - a. After feeding the five thousand, Jesus sends his disciples ahead of him in a boat to cross the Sea of Galilee.
 - b. Several hours later in the night, the disciples encounter a storm. Jesus comes to them, walking on the water. This terrifies the disciples and they think they are seeing a ghost. Jesus tells them in verse 27, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."
 - c. Peter replies, "Lord, if it's you, tell me to come to you on the water." So Jesus invites Peter to come.
 - d. Peter gets out of the boat and begins walking on the water toward Jesus. But when Peter takes his eyes off Jesus and sees the wind and waves, he begins to sink. Peter cries out to the Lord and Jesus immediately reaches out his hand and catches Peter.
 - e. As they climb into the boat together, the storm ceases. Then the disciples worship Jesus, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."
4. Lessons from this miracle for us:

Discussion

I. WE ARE SENT ON A MISSION

- A. Jesus sent his disciples across the sea to the other side.
- B. Just as certainly as he sent them on a mission, he has a mission for us.
 - 1. He left the responsibility of letting every creature on earth hear the gospel to us.
 - 2. The apostles accomplished this purpose in about thirty-one years.
 - a. Received commission in about 33 A.D. - Mt. 28:19-20 Mk.16:15-16
 - b. In A.D. 64 Paul declared that they had preached the gospel to every creature which was under heaven - Col. 1:22,23
 - 3. We must try to carry the gospel to every accountable being alive today.
 - 4. We are sent on a mission, and we can accomplish it if we will.

II. OUR LORD IS PRAYING

- A. While his disciples were carrying out the mission Jesus was in the mountain praying.
- B. Jesus is now in heaven praying for us as we sail on life's stormy sea
 - 1. Heb. 7:25 "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."
 - 2. By faith we can see Jesus in heaven praying every day at all times in our behalf.
 - 3. That is what He is doing right now.
 - 4. Heb.9:24 "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:"
 - 5. If only every child of God would learn this truth!!!

III. WE ARE ON A TROUBLED SEA

- A. The disciples were trying to cross a sea and it was very troubled and caused distress to their hearts.
- B. We also are trying to cross the sea of life and it is troubled
 1. We have distress because of world conditions and church conditions
 - a. World conditions - wars, famines, crime
 - b. Church - false teachers, backsliding, lack of work
 - c. John 16:33 "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."
 2. It is important to remember that "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." - Ps. 46:1
 - a. He is our refuge - shelter, trust
 - b. Our Strength
 - c. Present help in trouble
 3. The disciples, even though they have spent much time with Jesus, don't recognize him in the storm. Sometimes we don't recognize the Lord when he comes to us in the middle of our "storms."
 4. It is good to be in Christ, to be in his kingdom or church.
 - a. Eph. 3:20,21
 - b. When the sea got too rough Jesus came walking on the water
 - c. He is with us instantly in every hour of need
 5. Remember this as you travel the weary sea of life.

IV. WHY DO WE BEGIN TO SINK?

- A. Peter began to sink out there on the water. Why? "But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me." - Mt. 14:30
- B. We often begin to sink along our journey. Why?
1. Peter began to look at the waves instead of keeping his mind on Jesus.
 2. We begin to sink when we look at trouble and allow fear to come into our souls because of trouble that might arise, and we begin to sink.
 3. When we take our eyes off Jesus and fix them on the storms of life we begin to sink.
- C. What should we do?
1. Phil. 4:5-7 "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."
 2. Phil. 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice."
 - a. Because he repeated it should prove that he wants us to be happy.
 - b. He does not want us to be troubled and anxious
 3. "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid." Mat. 14:27b
 - a. The disciples saw something out on the water and thought it might have been a ghost.
 - b. Jesus calmed them down by saying "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid."
 - c. He did not scold them for being afraid, but he did not want them to stay that way.

- d. Jesus is with us in every storm and difficulty of life.
 - e. Remember he has promised "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Mt 28: 20b
4. Jesus is with us not only in the sunshine but also in the storm.
 - a. He is with us in every trial and trouble.
 - b. He has said: "All things work together for good to them, that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Rom. 8: 28
 5. Heb. 13:5-6 "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."
 - a. This is a needed lesson in the church today.
 - b. God knows our every need — because he is omniscient and good.
 - c. The reason we have so many Christians sinking in the storm of life is because they do not have trust, faith, and hope.
 - d. "But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end." Heb. 3:6

V. A HAND IS STRETCHED FORTH IMMEDIATELY

A. Peter needed help

1. When he recognized he was sinking, he cried out: "Lord, save me."
2. The cry had barely come forth from his lips when Jesus stretched forth his hand, and took hold of him.

B. Jesus will help us immediately

1. We need to cry out for help just like Peter did
 - a. Some do not even realize they are sinking in sin
 - b. Others see their plight but do not call for help
2. We like Peter have help waiting for us.
 - a. Ps. 78:19–22 NKJV “And they tested God in their heart By asking for the food of their fancy. 19 Yes, they spoke against God: They said, “Can God prepare a table in the wilderness? 20 Behold, He struck the rock, So that the waters gushed out, And the streams overflowed. Can He give bread also? Can He provide meat for His people?” 21 Therefore the LORD heard this and was furious; So a fire was kindled against Jacob, And anger also came up against Israel, 22 Because they did not believe in God, And did not trust in His salvation.”
 - b. God can help us just as surely as he helped those people in the wilderness, and he helped Peter sinking in the water.
3. Mt. 7:7–8 We need to ask
4. Jas. 4:3 “Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”
5. Sometimes the reason we do not ask is because we have doubts — Rom. 10:17

VI. STAY IN THE SHIP

- A. Peter made a mistake by trying to walk on the water
 - 1. There was no reason for Peter wanting to walk on the water
 - 2. Jesus was headed for the ship and meant to enter the ship as he did later
 - 3. Remember the wind did not cease until he had Peter back in the ship
 - 4. Jesus had told the disciples to get in the ship and cross to the other side
- B. The ship can represent the church
 - 1. We better stay in the church
 - 2. Eph. 3:21 "to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus"
 - 3. We should stay in the church and do what he has assigned for us to do.
 - 4. When we get out of the church we begin to sink.
 - 5. We have been commanded to enter the church and cross the stormy sea of life.
 - 6. Stay in the ship, preach the gospel, and live as you are commanded to live.

Conclusion

- 1. Jesus was able to walk on the water - but we are not able to do all things Jesus did.
- 2. We can learn:
 - a. We are sent on a mission - to save our self and others
 - b. Our Lord is praying for us
 - c. We begin to sink when we look away from Jesus
 - d. But He will give immediate help
 - e. We must abide in the ship in order to cross the river of life safely.
- 3. Are you in the church?
 - a. Obey
 - b. Come back home

Bibliography

1. Scripture studies Vol. II. S.H. Hall p. 53

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