

Matthew 14:28-33

²⁸ And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.”

²⁹ So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.

³⁰ But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!”

³¹ And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

³³ Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.”

Jesus Gives an Applicational Mid-Term. **Matthew 14:22–33**

INTRO:

We are experiencing things we have not experienced before. Covid-19, riots in the streets of American cities and politicians approving of these things. We have had our constitutionally guaranteed civil rights curtailed without due process. No wonder we are afraid. Our Lord Jesus would say to us to not be afraid, because there is no reason to doubt.

I. Principle 1-from the feeding of the five thousand.

II. Principle 2 – The Lord Jesus has a plan even when we cannot see it. (v. 22-24)

III. Principle Three -Doubt can arise when there is no reason to doubt. (v. 25-33)

I. Principle 1-from the feeding of the five thousand.

“Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, ‘Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?’ But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do.” (John 6:5–6).

A. Wait a minute. I thought we were studying **Matthew 14** and you begin with a quote from **John 6**?

1. In Matthew's account of the feeding he wrote how Jesus told the disciples to not send the people away, but to give them something to eat. In both accounts Jesus made the disciples feel the magnitude of the problem. The need outweighed their assets.

2. In **John 6**, Jesus put Philip squarely on the spot to test him and it is due to him that we understand the size of the problem.

“Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, ‘Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?’” John 6:5.

Philip replied that two hundred days wages could do no more than give everyone a taste. The job was too big. The disciples could not do it with their resources alone.

B. I referred to John's account because of his divine editorial comment.

“But this [Jesus] said to test [Philip], for [the Lord] Himself knew what He would do.” (John 6:6).

Our Lord is never taken by surprise. No burden is too large for the One who can do anything. He already knew the extent of their supply (*5 loaves and 2 fishes*) and what He would do to meet the need.

C. The principle from the feeding of the five thousand is: no situation, no matter how impossible to handle, is beyond our Lord's ability to meet the need. He Himself knows what He will do.

II. Principle 2 – The Lord Jesus has a plan even when we cannot see it. (v. 22-24)

“Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.” (Matthew 14:22–24).

A. Sometimes we understand well what our Lord is doing in our lives. However, many times we do not have a clue. If they thought about it, some of the Lord's plan was clear.

1. First, they knew they were in the middle of the Sea of Galilee in a storm because the Lord put them there.

“Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side.”

The disciples did not voluntarily choose to be in a boat in the middle of a violent storm. The Lord Jesus, Who controls storms, made sure they were there. Sometimes following Christ means being in the midst of the storm.

2. Second, He was trying to teach them something in this test. They were alone without the Lord Jesus physically present. Should they apply something from the miracle they just witnessed to get them through this? No, they found themselves too scared to think or even pray.

B. While the things they should have recognized were important, there are realities they could not see. Matthew showed us these. **(1)** Jesus prayed for them while they were in the danger. Mark's parallel account adds a detail that is precious.

"Then [the Lord Jesus] saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them." (Mark 6:48).

He saw them even though they were miles away, and He prayed for them. **(2)** He came to them when the time was right.

"Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea." (v.24)

III. Principle Three - Doubt Can arise When There Is No Reason to Doubt. (v. 25-33)

"Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.'" (Matthew 14:25-27).

A. The disciples are in no little danger. It is the dead of night. Storms are very dark. They have been rowing for hours against the wind. They are tossed by the waves and are very tired. They are in the middle of the sea and they are exhausted. Finally, it is the fourth watch of the night (4-6 am) and they see someone walking on the waves of the sea toward them. They were terrified as we would be. Jesus did not come to terrify but to comfort them.

"And Peter answered Him and said, 'Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.' So He said, 'Come.' And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, 'Lord, save me!' And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, 'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?' And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God" (verses 28-33).

B. Now Peter does something amazing. He calls out to the Lord and says, ***"Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."*** What was in Peter's mind? This was insane, but it was incredible faith. Jesus commanded him to come.

1. When Peter began to walk on the water what kept him from sinking? It was not faith, it was the Lord's power. The Lord of the Universe made Peter not sink. When Peter got his eyes off the Lord and began to sink, was it his fear that made him sink or a lesson Jesus wanted to teach him?

2. This is the point our Lord made with His words. ***“O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”*** This was said to Peter, why did he doubt? **(1)** Was he suddenly alone and the Lord Jesus was not there? No, the Lord would never leave him or forsake him. **(2)** Did the circumstances change? No, the storm did not get so big the Lord Jesus could not handle it. **(3)** Perhaps the Lord Jesus lost His power over creation? No. He is the Lord of Glory Who holds all things together by the word of His power. So what changed? Nothing. So, why did he doubt? There was exactly no reason to doubt.

3. Before we jump all over Peter we need to ask ourselves why we doubt. We have no more reason that Peter did.

What do we learn from this applicational Mid-term?

1. We must not evaluate situations in terms of our resources alone. Our Lord is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all we could ask or think. ***“He Himself knew what He would do.”***

2. Our Lord may not show us all that is in His plan. Many things may be hidden. Some of these things we may not understand. Yet, they are in His plan and His plan is best for us.

3. We are never out of His sight or out of His prayers.

4. Doubt does not arise because there is a reason to doubt. They come because we surrender to our fears. Cry out to Jesus and He will deliver us.

Hymn# 208 *Alas and Did My Savior Bleed*