

Jesus – The King of the Jews #41

The Storm on the Sea

Matt 14:22-33

Introduction:

1. Jesus had just fed the 5000 men besides women and children
2. John's gospel tells us that the people wanted to forcibly make Jesus king
 - a. What a welfare system they would have with Jesus as their king
 - b. He could supply their food - they wouldn't have to work
 - c. In an agricultural society in which hunger was not very far away, imagine having a king who could create food out of nothing.
 - d. If he could create food, then maybe he could create others things too
 - e. Jesus knew the immaturity of his disciples, and that they would have gotten wrapped up in this movement too so he sent them to the other side of the Sea of Galilee.

I. The Storm

A. Jesus Sent the Disciples Away – vs 22

22 And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.

1. Jesus "constrained" His disciples to get into the ship
 - a) *He compelled or forced them*
 - b) *Were they reluctant to leave Jesus?*
 - c) *Were they getting caught up in the scheme of making Jesus king?*
 - d) *They were following the commands of their Lord to get into the boat*
 - e) *The disciples did not experience the storm because of disobedience, but because of obedience to the Lord's strong command*
 - f) *If you are in a storm, that doesn't mean that you are necessarily out of God's will*
2. There are two types of storms that believers go through
 - a) *Storms for our correction*
 - (1) When there is disobedience or rebellion in our lives the Lord will engineer or allow a trial to bring us to a place of repentance and confession.
 - (2) In his love for you, the heavenly Father will discipline you
 - (3) This is not punishment for Jesus has taken our punishment on the cross
 - b) *Storms for our perfection or maturity*
 - (1) Through the storms we are matured and we grow as Christians
 - (2) There are things that we learn in the storms that we cannot learn any other way
 - (3) The disciples were in this kind of storm because they were obeying him
 - (4) Many believers wrongly suppose that "If I obey the Lord and walk close to him, then there won't be any storms." - That is not true.
3. An unknown poet wrote these words...

I walked a mile with pleasure
She chatted all the way
But left me none the wiser for all she had to say.
I walked a mile with sorrow
And not a word said she
But oh the things I learned from sorrow
When sorrow walked with me.

BYZ **Matthew 14:22** Καὶ εὐθέως ἠνάγκασεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τοὺς μαθητὰς ἐμβῆναι εἰς τὸ πλοῖον, καὶ προάγειν αὐτὸν εἰς τὸ πέραν, ἕως οὗ ἀπολύσει τοὺς ὄχλους.
Constrained (ēnagkassen). Literally, "compelled" or "forced." See this word also in Luke 14:23. The explanation for this strong word in Mark 6:45 and Matthew 14:22 is given in John 6:15. It is the excited purpose of the crowd to take Jesus by force and to make him national king. This would be political revolution and would defeat all the plans of Jesus about his kingdom. Things have reached a climax. The disciples were evidently swept off their feet by the mob psychology for they still shared the Pharisaic hope of a political kingdom. With the disciples out of the way Jesus could handle the crowd more easily, till he should send the multitudes away (heōs hou apolusēi tous ochlous). The use of the aorist subjunctive with heōs or heōs hou is a neat and common Greek idiom where the purpose is not yet realized. So in Matthew 18:30; Matthew 26:36. "While" sometimes renders it well. The subjunctive is retained after a past tense instead of the change to the optative of the ancient Attic. The optative is very rare anyhow, but Luke uses it with prin ē in Acts 25:16.

B. Jesus Prayed for Them in the Storm – vs 23

23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. 24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.

1. If the eternal Son of God needed to pray, then how much more do we need to pray.
2. Christ's priority on prayer
 - a) *It had been a busy day*
 - b) *He had healed and helped many others*
 - c) *He had fed the multitudes*
 - d) *Yet he still took time to pray*
 - e) *Jesus didn't allow the activities of the day to crowd out his prayer time*
3. Mark tells us that Jesus could see the disciples struggling in the storm and we can assume that he was praying for them
4. When someone says to me, "Pastor, I'm praying for you." I do not take that for granted. I need that.
5. But what if Jesus had you on His prayer list?
 - a) *Heb 7:25 - he lives to make intercession for his people*
 - b) *Rom 8:34 - at the right hand of God making intercession for us*
 - c) *If you are a child of God, then you are on Jesus' prayer list*
 - d) *If that doesn't encourage you and make it worth your coming tonight, then I don't know what it would take.*
6. Jesus knew that Peter would deny Him - he knew that Peter was going to falter and fail
 - a) *Lu 22:31-32 - Satan has desired you to sift you as wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith not fail*
 - b) *Imagine the comfort for Peter in those days after he denied the Lord as the Spirit of God brought back to him those words of Jesus*
 - c) *Warren Wiersbe said, "If you knew that Jesus was in the next room praying for you, would it not give you courage to endure your trials. Well, Jesus is not in the next room, but He is in heaven praying for you."*
7. The winds were contrary
 - a) *Remember that several of these men were seasoned fishermen*
 - b) *They were not easily panicked in the water*
 - c) *At times in our lives things are contrary*
 - d) *We might face adversity and opposition in doing God's work*

II. The Scare – vs 25-27

25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. 26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

A. See Jesus' Presence in the Storm

1. These weary disciples had been rowing throughout the night.
2. The situation looked hopeless
3. At their lowest point, Jesus went to them
4. Don't let anyone try to explain away this miracle.
 - a) *Jesus didn't walk on a sandbar*
 - b) *Jesus didn't walk on ice*
 - c) *All 12 disciples didn't see a simultaneous hallucination*
5. The One who created the law of gravity, temporarily suspended it

BYZ **Matthew 14:23** Καὶ ἀπολύσας τοὺς ὄχλους, ἀνέβη εἰς τὸ ὄρος κατ' ἰδίαν προσεύξασθαι· ὀψίας δὲ γενομένης, μόνος ἦν ἐκεῖ.

BYZ **Matthew 14:24** Τὸ δὲ πλοῖον ἦδη μέσον τῆς θαλάσσης ἦν, βασανιζόμενον ὑπὸ τῶν κυμάτων· ἦν γὰρ ἐναντίος ὁ ἄνεμος.

Distressed (basanizomenon). Like a man with demons (Matthew 8:29). One can see, as Jesus did (Mark 6:48), the boat bobbing up and down in the choppy sea.

βασανιζόμενον verb ptc pres pass nns from **βασανίζω** - strictly *rub on the touchstone* (**βάσανος**), a Lydian stone used to test the genuineness of metals; hence *test or make proof of anything*; (1) of bodily disease *torment, cause great pain*; passive *be in great pain* (MT 8.6); (2) passive, of birth pangs *suffer pain, be in anguish* (RV 12.2); (3) figuratively, of any severe distress *afflict, torment, harass* (MT 8.29); (4) passive, of a boat in a storm *be tossed or buffeted about* (MT 14.24)

BYZ **Matthew 14:25** Τετάρτη δὲ φυλακῆ τῆς νυκτὸς ἀπῆλθεν πρὸς αὐτοὺς ὁ Ἰησοῦς, περιπατῶν ἐπὶ τῆς θαλάσσης.

YZ **Matthew 14:26** Καὶ ἰδόντες αὐτὸν οἱ μαθηταὶ ἐπὶ τὴν θάλασσαν περιπατοῦντα ἐταράχθησαν, λέγοντες ὅτι Φάντασμα ἔστιν· καὶ ἀπὸ τοῦ φόβου ἔκραξαν.

They were troubled (etarachthēsan). Much stronger than that. They were literally "terrified" as they saw Jesus walking on the sea.

An apparition (phantasma), or "ghost," or "spectre" from phantazō and that from phainō. They cried out "from fear" (apo tou phobou) as any one would have done. "A little touch of sailor superstition" (Bruce).

B. Why Did Jesus Wait So Long?

1. Jesus went to them in the fourth watch of the night
2. Why did he let them row all night?
3. Why did he let them struggle?
4. Why is he waiting so long in your situation?
5. The answer is -- It's not time.
 - a) *His timing is perfect even when we don't understand it*
 - b) *Sometimes he delays to bring us to a new level of dependence on Him*
 - c) *Sometimes he delays so that the situation can become even worse so that His power becomes even more evident.*
 - d) *When Jesus found out that Lazarus was sick, he could have gotten there earlier but instead, he waited. Jesus could have healed Lazarus from a distance - he healed others from a distance*
 - e) *"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."*
 - f) *Thousands of people saw Jesus heal miraculously, but Mary and Martha saw a resurrection that day.*
6. *Isa 30:18 And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him.*

C. The Fear of the Disciples – “cried out for fear”

1. “spirit” = phantom (phantasma)
2. “troubled” is a strong word here
 - a) *Terrified is closer to the idea here*
 - b) *They were grown men – yet they were scared*
 - c) *They were fishermen – yet they were scared*
3. If this was women, we would say that they screamed

III. The Supplication – vs 27-28

27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. 28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

A. Comfort of the Master - "Be of Good Cheer"

1. Can also be translated - "Have courage"
2. He wanted them to know his person - "It is I" (I am)
3. Jesus literally said, "Take courage - I am - do not be afraid"
4. Speed of the comfort – Immediately “straightway”
5. Source of the comfort – the words of Christ
6. We will never find ourselves in a place where Christ cannot find us; and no storm is too severe for Him to save us from it.
 - a) *He protects His own, whom He will never fail or forsake ([Josh. 1:5](#); [Heb. 13:5](#)).*
 - b) *The lesson for the disciples is the lesson for us: There is no reason for God's people to fear.*
 - c) *There is no reason for anxiety, no matter how hopeless and threatening our problems seem to be.*
 - d) *Life is often stormy and painful, often threatening and frightening.*
 - e) *Some believers suffer more than others, but all suffer at some time and in some way.*
 - f) *In spite of that, the storm is never so severe, the night never so black, and the boat never so frail that we risk danger beyond our Father's care.*

BYZ **Matthew 14:27** Εὐθέως δὲ ἐλάλησεν αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς, λέγων, Θαρσεῖτε· ἐγὼ εἰμι· μὴ φοβεῖσθε.

BYZ **Matthew 14:28** Ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ αὐτῷ ὁ Πέτρος εἶπεν, Κύριε, εἰ σὺ εἶ, κέλευσόν με πρὸς σε ἐλθεῖν ἐπὶ τὰ ὕδατα.

B. Peter Steps Out of the Boat

1. Courage for stepping out – “bid me come unto thee on the water”
 - a) *That spoke of courage*
 - b) *Peter was not only willing to walk on water but he would do it in the midst of the storm*
 - c) *The storm did not cease until Christ and Peter returned to the boat*
2. Command for stepping out – “come”
 - a) *Do not criticize Peter for walking on the water*
 - b) *He did so only when commanded, not before*
 - c) *With Christ’s command came Christ’s enabling*
 - d) *The enabling would not have come had Peter jumped out of the boat and tried walking on the water on his own*
3. Encouragement in the stepping out
 - a) *This amazing feat by Peter is an encouragement to all who are in Christ’s service*
 - b) *It our work looks impossible, remember Christ can enable us to do the impossible*

IV. The Sinking – vs 29-30

29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

1. First there was success, then there was sinking
2. We sometimes give Peter a hard time
3. I wonder if, later on, some of the disciples said, "Well, Peter, you got your eyes off the Lord out there. Your faith started to diminish and you sank in the water." He should have answered, "Well, that may be true, but how many times have you walked on the water?"
4. Spurgeon points out that Peter was nearer the Lord in his sinking than the other disciples were in the boat.

V. The Saving – vs 31a

31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him...

A. Immediacy of the Saving – “immediately”

1. Christ did not delay in answering this prayer of Peter
2. Some requests receive a delayed answer, but the cry for salvation is answered immediately
3. The peril is too great for delay

B. Capability in the Saving – “stretched forth his hand and caught him”

1. Only Christ could do this
2. He was standing on the stormy sea, but could still lift Peter out
3. This was a great miracle and salvation is no less a miracle

VI. The Scolding – vs 31b

31b...O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

A. Smallness of Peter’s Faith – “O thou of little faith”

1. Christ did not say that Peter had no faith
2. He said that Peter had little faith
3. This criticism could be directed at many today

B. Shame for Peter’s faith – “wherefore didst thou doubt?”

1. This is a rhetorical question
2. Peter had no reason for doubting
3. He had seen many miracles of our Savior

BYZ **Matthew 14:29** Ὁ δὲ εἶπεν, Ἐλθέ.

Καὶ καταβάς ἀπὸ τοῦ πλοίου ὁ Πέτρος περιεπάτησεν ἐπὶ τὰ ὕδατα, ἐλθεῖν πρὸς τὸν Ἰησοῦν.

BYZ **Matthew 14:30** Βλέπων δὲ τὸν ἄνεμον ἰσχυρὸν ἐφοβήθη· καὶ ἀρξάμενος καταποντίζεσθαι ἔκραξεν, λέγων, Κύριε, σῶσόν με.

καταποντίζεσθαι verb infin pres pass from **καταποντίζω** - *throw into the sea, drown*; only passive in the NT *sink, be drowned* (MT 14.30)

BYZ **Matthew 14:31** Εὐθέως δὲ ὁ

Ἰησοῦς ἐκτεῖνας τὴν χεῖρα ἐπελάβετο αὐτοῦ, καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ, Ὀλιγόπιστε, εἰς τί ἐδίστασας;

VII. The Serenity – vs 32

32 And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.

1. Christ brought the peace
2. No one can bring peace like Christ – yet the world does not want Him
3. No wonder there is little peace today
4. It was as if the wind was simply waiting for the miracle to be finished and when it had served its purpose, it stopped

VIII. The Sanctity – vs 33

33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

A. Worship of Christ – vs 33a

1. Moment of the worship – “then”
 - a) *Right after the wind and waves ceased*
 - b) *To often, when something good happens, men celebrate by getting drunk and doing something stupid*
 - c) *The disciples worshipped the One who saved them*
2. Man of the worship – “him”
 - a) *They did not worship some angel or Mary*
 - b) *They worshipped Christ*

B. Words About Christ – vs 33b – “thou art the Son of God”

1. Christ is God
2. You cannot worship correctly if your doctrine is incorrect
3. They had gone past amazement to worship
4. In Matt 8 Jesus was in the boat during the storm and He was asleep.
5. "Master don't you care that we are perishing?"
6. Jesus calmed the storm and the disciples said, "Who can this be that even the winds and the waves obey Him?"
7. But in this instance they worshipped him - see how they had grown.

BYZ Matthew 14:32 Καὶ ἐμβάντων αὐτῶν εἰς τὸ πλοῖον, ἐκόπασεν ὁ ἄνεμος·

Ceased (ekopasen). From kopos, toil. The wind grew weary or tired, exhausted itself in the presence of its Master (cf. Mark 4:39). Not a mere coincidence that the wind ceased now.

BYZ Matthew 14:33 οἱ δὲ ἐν τῷ πλοίῳ ἐλθόντες προσεκύνησαν αὐτῷ, λέγοντες, Ἀληθῶς θεοῦ υἱὸς εἶ.

Worshipped him (prosekunēsan autōi). And Jesus accepted it. They were growing in appreciation of the person and power of Christ from the attitude in Matthew 8:27. They will soon be ready for the confession of Matthew 16:16. Already they can say: "Truly God's Son thou art." The absence of the article here allows it to mean a Son of God as in Matthew 27:54 (the centurion). But they probably mean "the Son of God" as Jesus was claiming to them to be.