

“Courage” - Matthew 14:22-33

Ask - Have you ever mistaken someone for someone else? Share.

Background - Jesus and his disciples went to Bethsaida where He fed 5,000 men, plus women and children, with just 5 small loaves and 2 fish. Today's lesson takes place immediately afterward.

“Jesus' Presence” - Matthew 14:22-27

(v22-23) After feeding the 5,000, what did Jesus do? Where did the disciples go? The crowds go? Jesus Himself go?

(v24-25) While Jesus was praying, what was happening to the disciples? What did Jesus do and when?

(v26-27) When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the sea, how did they react and what did they say? What was Jesus' response to them?

THE DISCIPLES WERE CAUGHT IN A WINDSTORM ON THE SEA. JESUS CAME TO THE WALKING ON THE WATER, BUT THEY WERE AFRAID THAT HE WAS A GHOST.

“Jesus' Invitation” - Matthew 14:28-30

(v28) What was Peter's request?

(v29) Did Jesus grant Peter's request? What did Peter do?

(v30) What caused Peter to begin sinking? What did he cry out? How has taking your eyes off Jesus caused you to sink in various moments of your life? Discuss.

JESUS INVITED PETER TO WALK ON THE WATER, WHICH HE DID BRIEFLY BEFORE BEGINNING TO SINK.

“Jesus' Response” - Matthew 14:31-33

(v31) When Peter cried out as he began to sink, what did Jesus immediately do? What did he ask Peter? How does doubt impair believers? Discuss.

(v32) What happened when they got back in the boat?

(v33) What did those in the boat do and say?

WHEN JESUS AND PETER GOT INTO THE BOAT, THE STORM CEASED AND

EVERYONE WORSHIPED JESUS AS THE SON OF GOD.

Application - Some people criticize Peter for doubting Jesus, for being distracted by the wind and storm, and for sinking into the sea. But I would remind you that he was the only one who had the courage and faith to get out of the boat and try walking on the water. Perhaps he didn't get very far, but he got farther than any of the others who didn't even try. May we have the courage to do likewise, to move out of our "safe places", and to walk on the water with our eyes fixed on Jesus knowing that even if we begin to sink, He is there to rescue us. How might you apply this lesson in your life?