

AN AMAZING FEAT

BACKGROUND PASSAGE: MATTHEW 14:22-33 PRINT PASSAGE: MATTHEW 14:22-33

RESOURCES: *New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition*,
God's Promises Bible, Boyd's Commentary for the Sunday School

KEY VERSE: And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?
Matthew 14:31, KJV

Jesus performed a miracle by providing five thousand men (not including women and children) a bountiful fish and bread dinner. He multiplied the ridiculous amount of food from a lunch of five loaves and two pieces of fish. This was true, a day to remember! Jesus' delivery of an insightful sermon and the joyous feeling of "breaking bread" together would have satiated the crowd's hunger for righteousness and truth, as well as for sustenance. However, it was time for the events to end, and Jesus needed to excuse Himself from the scene. He sends the Disciples across the sea to another destination where they will rejoin Him later. The miracle of this lesson occurs as Peter, and the Disciples make their way across the sea.

Jesus went up to the mountain to pray by Himself. This appears to be His normal way of operation because, throughout the Gospels, we see Him retreat to a mountain to pray. The regularity by which He does this says something about the rhythm that we are to have regarding our prayer life and deepening spirituality. While He was praying, the Disciples got in the boat and were out on the sea meeting the battering winds and waves of an unexpected storm. Jesus began to walk to the boat while it was still out in the middle of the water. What does one do when they are faced with the God-man as He walks on water in the middle of the lake? There is only one proper response, worship. In this regard the Disciples pass this test with flying colors.

Think About It

Faith is central to our relationship with Christ. Without it, it is impossible to be in proper relationship with Him because it is the basis of that relationship. We can walk on water and do any number of amazing feats if we believe in Christ and His power. What amazing thing are you looking to do?

1. Jesus Walks on the Water (Matthew 14:22-25)

King James Version

New Revised Standard Version

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.

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.

25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

IMMEDIATELY he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone.

24 But by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.

25 And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.

Know It

The action in verse 22 demonstrates the urgency of the situation and the need to get to the other side. Jesus compelled the disciples to get into the boat and go ahead of Him. While Matthew is not so specific, he confirms that the boat's direction was from west to east, which would land them near Gennesaret (v. 34), located on the western shore, on their return. On previous occasions, Jesus and the disciples would sail away from the multitude to escape the adoring masses. However, on this occasion, Jesus decided to disperse the crowds that had gathered for His message and miracle.

Remaining in the area, Jesus went up on the mountain to pray. Jesus needed to be alone. At this juncture, Jesus needed to refresh Himself and communicate with His Father. We are not provided the details of the conversation of the prayer; however, it demonstrated that Jesus served as a model for the need to pray. While we may assume that since Jesus was the Son of God, prayer was not necessary, Jesus relied on His Father for guidance and strength.

While Jesus was on the mountain, and an unpredictable storm arose and begun to swamp their boat, putting their lives in peril. At some point, Jesus had finished with His prayer and decided to join His disciples. Although He was

NOTES:

NOTES:

on the mountain, Jesus understood the desperation of their circumstances and knew where they were on the lake. Jesus' power over the winds and sea was obvious; however, what follows is another practical lesson of faith in the disciples' lives. Jesus saw their despair and vowed to rescue His men. Remarkably, Jesus unusually approached them by physically coming toward them, walking on water, amidst the throngs of the sea and its unrelenting wind and waves!

His walking on the water was an indication that the Disciples needed a deeper faith to continue to walk and work with Jesus. He walked on water, but they remained in the boat, afraid of what could happen. They were terrified of the storm that they thought would overtake them, and Jesus was calmly walking on water.

2. Peter Walks, Disciples Terrified (Matthew 14:26-29)

King James Version

New Revised Standard Version

AND when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.
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.
29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.
27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."
28 Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."
29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.

Initially, the Disciples thought they saw Jesus coming toward them as a ghost. In a culture that believed in sea monsters. The Disciples may have believed that evil spirits' mind-control had captured their intellect that lured sailors to their death. Even so, their fear was real and terrifying. Recognizing their anxiety, Jesus immediately called out to them.

Peter spoke up and said, "If it is you, Lord." At this juncture, Peter became confident, whether it was through his spiritual nature, or that he suddenly became courageous with Jesus had appeared. Nevertheless, what happened next was either a true gesture of faith or a real demonstration of Peter's bravery. Peter asked Jesus to command him to join Him, walking on the surface of the waters.

3. Peter Saved, Jesus is Worshipped (Matthew 14:30-33)

King James Version

New Revised Standard Version

BUT when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

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

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

BUT when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

32 When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

NOTES:

Now, Peter lapsed into his frail humanity, and fear overcame him, to the extent that he lost faith in what Jesus had allowed him to do. When Peter realized the wind and the effective turbulence that it caused on the water, his intellect replaced his faith with fear. Human logic eroded his power to stay afloat. As Peter began to sink, he cried out to Jesus to save him and prevent him from drowning. Immediately, Jesus reached out and grabbed Peter and saved him from going under. While still on the surface of the waters, Jesus questioned Peter's faith by asking why he doubted that he could do this? Peter had depended on Jesus to take that first step, so why did he stop?

A relieved Peter did not slip beneath the waves, and he and Jesus got back into the boat after he grabbed his hand. Remarkably, Matthew reports that as soon as they entered the craft, the wind and the waves died and became peaceful. Jesus does not have to speak to the winds to get them to calm down. The winds and waves continued to obey even His unspoken will! The Disciples who were in the boat witnessed the entire episode. Although they may not have initially believed their eyes, they knew that they had experienced something special. Peter may not have fulfilled his request, but that was not as important as the lesson learned. Their shouts of praise went beyond simply being rescued from the storm, as they worshiped Him and declared that Jesus was truly the Son of God. It was fitting that the Disciples bestow the honor of praising Jesus as God's Son.

Application & Review

Jesus went off to pray by Himself. His Disciples got in a boat and began to go to the other side of the lake. Late in the night, the winds and waves began to blow and rise to put the Disciples in danger. Jesus, in the middle of the chaos, walks to them on the water. Enthused and wanting to test this figure on the water, Peter steps out only to sink due to his lack of faith. Faith, in this instance, is akin to the ability to block out various stimuli and would be distractions. However, Jesus saves Peter and calms the sea with His presence. They worship Him in awe.

One song that this lesson brings to mind is "Love Lifted Me." Especially lines such as "sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore." This conjures an image of Peter sinking beneath the waves and being rescued by Jesus. The song goes on to say, "when nothing else would help," "love lifted me!"

Life has presented situations and circumstances that only faith would allow us to endure. Like the disciples in the boat after the storm was calmed, the Lord has blessed us. We generally celebrate and worship in our version of spirit and truth. However, we must worship the Lord in the midst of the storm, not merely when the battle is over!

Christian believers are encouraged to share their testimony of the goodness of the Lord to help other Christians facing a storm through which you may have already come. It is a mandate from God that we remain a reliable witness in the unpredictable cycles of our earthly lives.

Devotional Readings for June 28–July 4, 2021

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
God Welcomes Foreigners	Naomi's Sorrow Turns to Joy	Symptoms and Treatment of Leprosy	Lepers Share Their Good News	Many Samaritans Believe in the Savior	Doing What Needs to Be Done	Cultivate Gratefulness for Acts of Healing
Isaiah 56:1–8	Ruth 4:3–6, 13–15	Leviticus 13:1–8	2 Kings 7:3–11	John 4:39–42	Lutke 17:1–10	Leviticus 13:45–56; Lutke 17:11–19

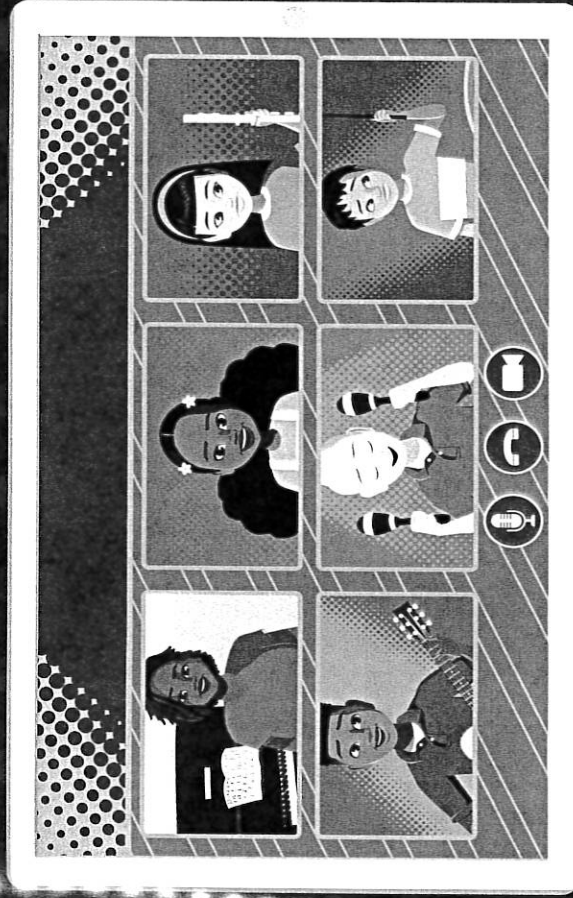
ADAPT CHRISTIAN LIFE

NOTES:

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
A NEW SONG! THE MESSAGE IN OUR MINDS

R.H. BOYD
EST. 1986

VBS@HOME



Visit www.rhboyd.com/vbs for additional VBS recommendations, activities, and digital resources.

@rhboydco • 1-877-4RH-BOYD (474-2693) • customerservice@rhboyd.com