

Forming Concrete Faith Matthew 14:22-33

I. **Trusting Jesus' Power will Strengthen our Faith. v22-27**

a. **The Stormy Context**

- i. V22 – Jesus immediately ushers the disciples away from the multitude (this is the same multitude that ate at the feeding of the 5000.
- ii. They get back into the boat and begin returning to other side of the lake.
- iii. But Jesus does not go with the disciples, rather he goes into the mountain to pray.
- iv. V24 – The ship was in the midst of the sea.
- v. We see a beautiful picture of Jesus here;
 1. **Mark 6:48** – “And he [Jesus] saw them toiling in rowing...”
 2. **Matthew 14:25** – “Jesus went unto them”
 3. Jesus leaves his place of prayer to go to aid of His disciples.
- vi. If Jesus is God, then he has power over the natural world that He created and can do things that are outside of the laws of physics and human comprehension.
 1. But as with these things that are not rational or explainable outside of God; as it is with MIRACLES, it requires the necessary ingredient of FAITH.
 - a. **Faith is not built on a rational explanation of an event.**
 - b. **It is built upon trusting in the power of the one who has done the miracle.**
 - c. **Heb 11:1** – “Now faith is the substance [reality] of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”
 - d. **2 Cor 5:7** - For We walk by faith, not by sight.
 - e. We don't live according to what seems normal or rationally explainable, but we live by FAITH.
 - f. However, faith in Jesus is based on factual evidence of His power!
 2. It is a whole lot easier to live by **FAITH** when your **FAITH**, your confidence, your conviction is in a powerful God.
 - a. **Your faith is in the one whose power** created the world out of nothing.
 - b. **Your faith is in the one whose power** created a meal for 5000 out of 5 loaves and 2 fish.
 - c. **Your faith is in the one whose power** predicted his own resurrection from the dead and then raised Himself.

b. The Savior's Comfort

- i. Jesus comes to the disciples
- ii. The disciples cried out in complete shock and fear.
- iii. V27 "straightway" / immediately, Jesus speaks to them saying:
 1. *"Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid."*
 2. *(Take heart, Take courage, Be strengthened, Be firm and resolute even the face of danger)*
 3. *it is I; (I AM : GOD IS HERE)*
- iv. **What Jesus is doing is demonstrating that HE has the POWER over the very things that the DISCIPLES are afraid of.**
- v. Therefore, this should **STRENGTHEN THEIR FAITH IN HIM.**
 1. Jesus has power over the Spiritual World
 2. Jesus has power over Death:
 3. Jesus is supernaturally demonstrating HIS power over what they think may harm them.

II. Trusting Jesus' Presence will Stretch our Faith. *V28-31*

- a. Peter calls to Jesus and says Lord, if it is really you, **(if you are who you say you are)** bid me to come to you.
- b. Jesus responds, beautifully and simply: **"Come"**
- c. Peter's faith was in the process of being stretched.
- d. WE see a beautiful correlation here between human **FAITH** and Jesus' **POWER** and **PRESENCE**.
- e. **When we realize Jesus POWER and we know His PRESENCE with us, our faith is able to be stretched.**
 - i. **Romans 8:37-39 – "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."**
 - ii. We can conquer and overcome the trails we face, through the power of Christ, but also because his presence can never be taken from us.
 - iii. That should stretch us; we should become more bold in Him.

III. Trusting Jesus' Position will Solidify our Faith. **V32-33**

- a. I want you to notice the disciples' response
- b. **Matthew 8:27 – “What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”**
- c. **“Of a truth thou art the Son of God”**
- d. Depending on how you position Jesus, your faith (your confidence in Him, His Word, His promises) will either be concrete (solid) or shakey.
 - i. *Heb 12:2 - Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*
 - ii. **1 Pet 5:9-10 – “Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.”**
- e. They have seen the **POWER** of Jesus on display alongside the human **PROCLAMATIONS** of **FAITH** in HIM
 - i. Jesus' **POWER** has cast out demons out of the two men and cast them into the herd of swine.
 - ii. Jesus **POWER** made the lame walk (Matt 9:3 – **“and Jesus, seeing their faith...”**)
 - iii. Jesus **POWER** has resurrected Jarius daughter – **“thy faith hath made thee whole”** (Matt 9:22)
 - iv. Jesus **POWER** has made the two blind men see
 - v. **There is a common denominator here: When each of these individuals REALIZED WHO JESUS WAS, their faith was a demonstration of confidence in Him, convicted of His Words, and holding on to his promises; Jesus power was made manifest.**
 - vi. **“Faith is the Greatest Power in the World” – Warren Wiersbe**
 - vii. **Faith does not focus on the impossibility of a problem. Faith focuses on a God who has all power and capability to overcome a problem.**

IV. *Conclusion*

- a. Jesus is the Son of God
- b. You can put your faith in Him
- c. If you are already saved, He wants to “finish” your faith – Hebrews 12:1-2