

## IMITATING JESUS

Text: **Matthew 14:23-33** 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. <sup>24</sup> But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. <sup>25</sup> And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. <sup>26</sup> And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. <sup>27</sup> But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. <sup>28</sup> **And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.** <sup>29</sup> **And he said, Come.** And when Peter was come down out of the ship, **he walked on the water**, to go to Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, **Lord, save me.** <sup>31</sup> **And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand**, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? <sup>32</sup> And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased. <sup>33</sup> Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

**Hebrews 6: 1-3** Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, <sup>2</sup> Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. <sup>3</sup> **And this will we do, if God permit.**

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**Acts 5:12-16** <sup>12</sup> And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. <sup>13</sup> And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them. <sup>14</sup> And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.) <sup>15</sup> Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. <sup>16</sup> There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

Introduction: The story of “Jesus walking on the water” appears in 3 of the 4 gospels—Mathew, Mark, & John... Our Text is the only place that records—Peter attempting to IMITATE Jesus and ACTUALLY WALK ON THE WATER TOO! (as Jesus Walked on the water)

### 1) JESUS WAS A HARD ACT TO FOLLOW

**THIS REALLY WASN'T AN ACT---IT WAS A MIRACLE---JESUS DID WALK ON THE WATER**

a. Prior to this in the chapter---Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist—After he heard the news-- Jesus departed into the wilderness to rest and pray—multitudes followed him --in the wilderness

- Had compassion on the multitude and taught them about God
- fed the 5 thousand in the wilderness
- Jesus commanded the disciples to go in the ship while he sent the multitude away
- Went to the top of the mountain and prayed
- Came to them at the 4<sup>th</sup> WATCH-3 to 6 AM

### 2) PUZZLE----Why Didn't the Other Disciples Get Out of the Boat?

- Reason---People can't walk on Water
- Fear--- Afraid of the Storm? Afraid of the Water?
- Safety—Safest Place was in the Boat!
- Sought To Hide Among Themselves—The other weren't volunteering--Be Like Everyone Else—
- Timidness—Mere Fishermen Whispered in their EARS?
- Unbelief—Did not believe EVEN AFTER FEEDING of the 5 THOUSAND
- \*\*Lack of Desire—ONE OF THE MOST DEADLY OF ALL EXCUSES- FIRE INSURANCE??

LACK OF DESIRE—BOCHIM--Judges 2:1-5 And an angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I sware unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you.<sup>2</sup> And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this?<sup>3</sup> Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you. <sup>4</sup> And it came to pass, when the angel of the LORD spake these words unto all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voice, and wept.<sup>5</sup> And they called the name of that place Bochim: and they sacrificed there unto the LORD.

3) Look at the HEART of Peter in this MIRACLE EVENT--PETER WALKED ON THE WATER TOO!  
Do we desire to be like Jesus???? Or are we satisfied with just staying in the boat????

- WE HAVE THE SAME JESUS TODAY AS THE DISCIPLES---IS HE LESS POWERFUL???
- DO WE HAVE A DESIRE TO WALK AS HE WALKED???
- DO WE HAVE A DESIRE TO LIVE AS HE LIVED????
- DO WE HAVE A DESIRE TO HAVE COMPASSION AS HE HAD COMPASSION???
- DO WE HAVE A DESIRE TO WALK IN LOVE AS HE WALKED IN LOVE
- DO WE HAVE A DESIRE TO SEE THE LOST SAVED AS HE DID??
- DO WE HAVE A DESIRE TO WALK IN POWER OVER THE ENEMY AS HE DID???
- DO WE HAVE A DESIRE TO WORK UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE FATHER AS HE Did??

4) Lessons Learned from Peter's Experience—

- Look to Jesus and Keep Looking to Jesus
- Jesus sometimes Commands us to do Strange Things—DO THEM ANYWAY
- Only Take one STEP at a TIME-DON'T TRY TO REASON THINGS-Peter Did Fine When He ONLY FOCUSED on 1 STEP
- Faith and OBEDIENCE in GOD- ULEASES the Supernatural
- FEAR will Sink You—
- The Mercy of Christ will SUSTAIN You
- A Little Faith is Better than No Faith

5) RAMP TO LEVEL WHEERE THE POWER OF CHRIST DWELLS

**Hebrews 6: 1-3** Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, <sup>2</sup> Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.<sup>3</sup> **And this will we do, if God permit.**

*POOL OF BETHESDA—Only 1 Chosen*

**JOHN 5:17-19** But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.<sup>18</sup> Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.<sup>19</sup> Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

**Closing:** ANOTHER SCENE SOMETIME LATER:

**Same Disciples with the exception of Judas Iscariot ---Acts 5:12-16** <sup>12</sup> And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. <sup>13</sup> And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them. <sup>14</sup> And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.) <sup>15</sup> Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. <sup>16</sup> There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

- Do YEARS & TIME SPENT IN CHRISTIAN SERVICE = Imitating Jesus in Power?
- Does SPIRITUAL MATURITY = Imitating Jesus in Power?
- Does EDUCATION or CHRISTIAN TRAINING = Imitating Jesus in Power?
- Does WATCHING MIRACLES DONE BY OTHERS = Imitating Jesus in Power?
- Does Even BAPTISM IN HOLY SPIRIT = Imitating Jesus in Power? NOW WE ARE GETTING CLOSE!!!