
It's Our Turn to Walk on Water

Steve Berger

March 29, 2020

Shocking

With all due respect, sensitivity, and compassion, nine people took their lives in two days this week in Knox County. Tennessee has had more deaths by suicide in two days than COVID-19 has caused us in 30 days. Suicide calls have surged from Massachusetts to Oregon. Portland, OR suicide attempts and threats are up 41% from the same time last year. Up 23% in the 10 days since a declared state of emergency was ordered.

Point — people are hopeless, fearful, in need of help, hope, and faith!

Jesus is the answer!

National Suicide Lifeline — 1 800 273 TALK

Grace Chapel — 1 615 591 5091

Today — tremendous hope to us all

This famous story comes just after Jesus feeds 5,000 with five loaves and two fish.

Matthew 14:22-23

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.

Application — *Jesus has called us all to an obedient journey to get to the other side of certain immediate situations, and ultimately heaven — **in the process, He's praying for us!***

- **Hebrews 7:25**

Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

- **What is Jesus praying?** Jesus prays for those who come to Him — God saves to the uttermost!

- **Luke 22:31-32**

And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift *you* as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to *Me*, strengthen your brethren."

- Jesus to Peter, Satan wants to sift you — **I have prayed, that your faith not fail!**

Beloved — Jesus is praying for us that our faith doesn't fail in our storms, whatever they may be, including pestilence and the like.

**Take great comfort in knowing that Jesus is praying for us,
that He's present in our storms.
He will get us through!**

Are you a Jesus CAN'T or Jesus CAN person?

Matthew 14:24

But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

Application — disciples had rowed four miles, hours-long struggle, wind-blown, storm-tossed, in nearly boat-sinking, darkness of night. **Have you ever felt like that?**

Listen — it's not all smooth sailing getting to the other side — but Jesus prays, sees, and is present. Settle that in your heart. **Storms don't mean He's unfaithful — storms are opportunities for growth, revelation, and miracles! Yesterday's conquered storms give today's hope!**

Matthew 14:25

Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.

Application — *fourth watch, 3am-6am, Jesus walking on the sea, in the storm, displaying total authority over nature itself. You would think disciples would be stoked...*

Matthew 14:26

And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear... **They weren't stoked!**

Application — *trouble/worry unchecked leads to full-blown fear, AND a declaration that minimizes the Person and power of Jesus — "It's a ghost, can't be Jesus, He can't walk on water."*

Amazing to me — in Matthew 8:23-27 Jesus had already stopped a storm, why not this time?

Listen — **if we don't reel in our worry, fear will follow, leading to a minimizing of Jesus' Presence, power and authority over our lives... hopelessness sets in...**

Question — **Are you a Jesus CAN'T or Jesus CAN person?**

Jesus says, "Come" "I AM"

Matthew 14:27

But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

Application — *be courageous, I AM, don't be afraid! Courage and fearlessness must be rooted in the Presence of the Great I AM in our midst! Courage from Presence!*

- **Joshua 1:9**

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Listen — while disciples are troubled, fearful and minimizing Jesus' power — Jesus is calling them to courage and fearlessness based on His Presence and power! Same for us!

Matthew 14:28

And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

Application — Peter gets courageous, asks the “impossible” — to walk on water.

Love this — “Jesus, if this is really You, invite me out and empower me to walk on water...

I want to walk on what is threatening my life!”

Matthew 14:29

So He said, “**Come.**” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.

- Jesus didn’t turn Peter down — He invited him out...
- **Peter walked on the water!!!** *The very thing that was threatening his life, he walked on!*
- **Jesus is the same today, we’re no different than Peter...**

It’s our turn to abandon worry, fear and panic.

It’s our turn to step out of the boat.

It’s our turn to step out in faith.

It’s our turn to walk on water.

If you focus on the storm, fear sets in

Matthew 14:30

But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!” (*Peter was doing great*).

- if you focus on the storm, fear sets in, sinking starts.
- *there is no room for focusing on the storm when you’re walking on its waves.*
- **you must focus on the One who invited and empowered you to walk on the water in the first place!**

Matthew 14:31

And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

Listen — Jesus saved Peter and that’s wonderful — BUT — Jesus also corrects something for Peter... “You didn’t sink due to the storm; you sank due to your doubt and lack of faith that I could actually enable you to walk on the stormy waves!”

The waves of the corona virus storm

The waves of the corona virus storm-

- a) worry that you and your loved ones are going to get it
- b) fear that you are going to die
- c) doubt in Jesus’ ability to handle this, spiritually, emotionally, financially, etc.

Friends-

- a) we can't doubt, we can't lose our faith — no wonder Jesus prays for us!
- b) we can and must walk on these waves that seek to sink our faith
- c) we are only going to be able to do it if we keep our eyes on Jesus, and trust his power to enable us to walk on water!

Matthew 14:32-33

And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

Application — *Peter getting out of the boat, walking on water, led to people in the boat having a revelation of Who Jesus is. They went from, "Who can this be?" to "You are the Son of God!" And they worshipped Him! What we do in storms can cause other's storms to stop! There is so much hanging in the balance right now.*

Beloved

It's time to turn from trouble, fear, and minimizing Jesus' Presence and power in our lives.

It's time to be courageous and fearless — based on His Presence and power.

It's time to walk on water, the very thing that is threatening lives — not in foolish arrogance, but in courageous confidence!

**IT'S OUR TURN TO WALK ON WATER!
IT'S OUR TURN TO HELP OTHER'S STORMS STOP!**

**There is hope in Jesus.
He's your only hope!**

Discussion Questions

1. Do you take real, actual comfort believing/knowing that Jesus is praying for you?
2. If Jesus has conquered a storm in your past, why would you doubt Him this time?
3. Read Joshua 1:9. How do you accept the *command* to be strong and of good courage and not to be afraid?
4. Is there any trouble in your life that you need to ask Jesus to empower you to "walk on the water" toward Him?
5. Who do you know that may be watching how you as a Christian are living through the tough times in society today? Do they see you walking on the water?
6. Who do you know that needs hope in Jesus — to help their storms stop?

NOTES