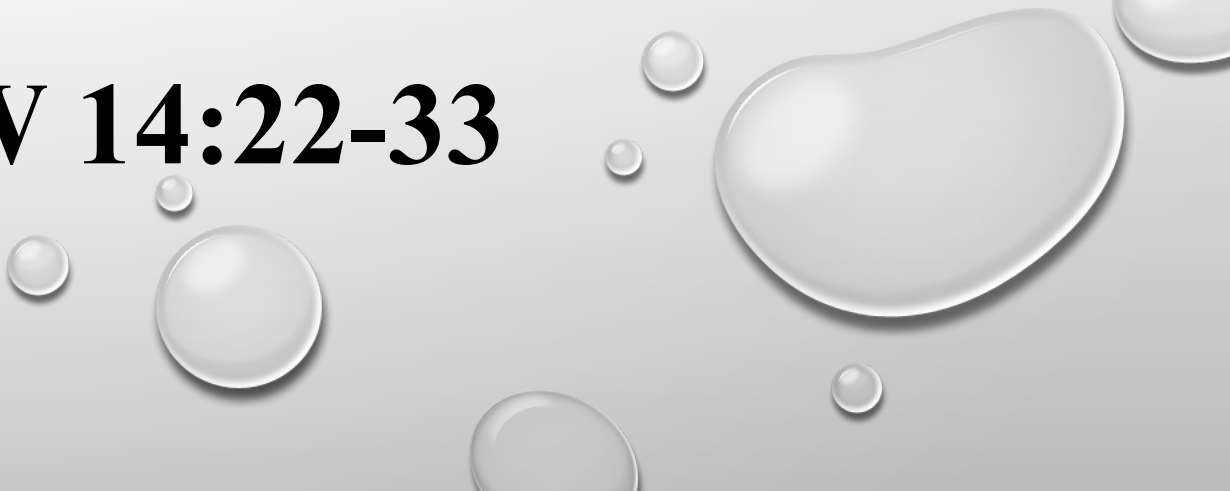




“Getting Through the Storms of Your Life – Part 1”

MATTHEW 14:22-33



Ralph's Story

Ralph was now in his mid 60's.

He had been diagnosed as being legally blind.

He had about 10 percent of his vision in his left eye.

He had about 20 percent of his vision in his right eye.

With very limited vision, Ralph chose not to use a cane.

In most instances, Ralph could move about without incident.

That was especially true when Ralph was familiar with his surroundings.

There was an occasion for Ralph to meet someone in a building that was unfamiliar to him.

Ralph searched for the elevator while standing in the lobby.

Ralph's Story (Cont.)

A young lady offered to help Ralph find the elevators.

She was also on her way to the elevators.

Ralph didn't realize the lobby was on two levels.

The entrance to the elevators was on a lower level.

There was a stairway with a 10-foot drop to the lower level that Ralph didn't see.

Ralph missed the first step.

He fell and cracked his L2 vertebrae.

He broke his back and was in extreme pain.

Let's pause the Ralph story right here.



Big Idea:

- Ralph had just entered one of many storms.
- This one was a very serious medical storm.
- Maybe some of you can relate to being in a storm.
- There are different kinds of storms.
- Thunderstorms, snowstorms, sandstorms, hurricanes, tornados and ice storms.
- Other kinds of storms are relationship storms, financial storms, health storms, and storms related to death.
- Today's message is taken from a storm in the life of the disciples.
- Winds over 100 miles an hour, and waves that were over 10 feet high.
- Anxiety, panic, and fear were beginning to grip them.
- Listen to how the bible describes this storm.

Big Idea Con't:

Matthew 14:22-33

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. ²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.

²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear. ²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” ²⁸ “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “Tell me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹ “Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” ³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “Why did you doubt?” ³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”



Big Idea Con't:

Big Idea:

- Jesus is with you in the midst of your storm.
- This passage speaks directly to the storms we encounter in life.
- The disciples were caught in a violent storm.
- Jesus approached them walking on the water.
- This passage is rich with lessons that can help us navigate our own turbulent times.

- Therefore, pray with me about the title:
Getting Through the Storms of Your Life – Part One.



Connection:

- Jesus has just fed the five thousand.
- He sent the disciples across the sea.
- He went up the mountainside to pray.
- It's important to note that Jesus sends them into the storm.
- You and I are not always in a storm because we did something wrong.
- Sometimes, God is teaching us something.



Connection (Con't):

- He is allowing us to grow into the very image of Jesus Christ.
- That is the point of **Romans 8:28-29**.
- The storms that we go through are working for our good.
- They conform us into the very image of God's son, Jesus Christ.

Praise God.

Many of them are unavoidable.

That is the first lesson of this passage.



Storms are Unavoidable

Genesis 3:6

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

- It was at this moment that Sin entered the Human existence.
- You and I now live in a fallen, decaying, and decrepit world.



Storms are Unavoidable (Continued)

Our world continues to decay.

- Disease, Danger, Disaster and Death are daily occurrences around the world.
- The Bible says that we should expect these Storms.
- Jesus warns about wars, rumors of wars, famine, and earthquakes. **Matthew 24:6-8**
- While storms like these are unavoidable, **God is always in control.**
- He is sovereign.

Notice what he says in **John 16:33**

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”



Storms are Unavoidable (Continued)

- Thank God that he has overcome the world.
- Because some of the storms in your life are pretty painful.
- The truth is we cause some of this pain.
- **We cause some of our Storms.**
- But, remember that God is Sovereign.
- That means he is aware of our storms whether we caused them or not.
- Storms like these and many others can be devastating.
- They can be debilitating.
- Some are simply unavoidable.



Storms are Unavoidable (Continued)

- We had unavoidable physical storms in July.
- We are now in the midst of a political storm.
- All of these storms are unavoidable.
- There are other unavoidable storms
- Some relationship storms, financial storms, health storms, and emotional storms are also unavoidable.

Job was in an unavoidable storm.

Like Job, these storms may have nothing to do with what you have said or done.

Job was **the most righteous man** in the old testament.



Storms are Unavoidable (Continued)

- Yet he experienced terrorism and a natural disaster.
- His friends unjustly accused him.
- Job's wife told him to curse God and die.
- God was fully aware of Job's situation.
- Likewise, He is **fully aware** of your storm.
- Sometimes, you will encounter moments when the winds are against you.
- But **your storms also offer opportunities for spiritual growth.**
- Remember that even in these challenging times, you are not alone.
- **Jesus is with you in the storm.**



Don't be afraid of the Truth

“Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them,
walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him
walking on the lake, they were terrified”
(Matthew 14:25-26)

When the Disciples were in the storm, they saw
Jesus walking on the water.

They were terrified thinking he was a Ghost.

- Fear is a natural response in the face of uncertainty.
- It grips us, often causing us to doubt our faith and our calling.
- Therefore, we must be very careful about what causes us to fear.

The Disciples Fear was an emotional lie.



Don't be afraid of the Truth (Continued)

- This was not a ghost.
- It was Jesus.
- Jesus is the Truth.
- He came to them walking on the water.
- They were afraid of him.
- They were afraid of the truth.

Can you imagine that?
The truth was coming to them.



Don't be afraid of the Truth (Continued)

The truth was in their midst.
And they were afraid of it.
Have you ever been afraid of the truth?

I know someone who is afraid of the truth.
The truth is **God loves her**.
But she is **afraid of that truth**.
In fact, she refuses to except that truth.
As a result, she lives in constant fear that no one
loves her.



Don't be afraid of the Truth (Continued)

That, of course is a lie.

When you know the truth, **the truth will set you free.**

God's love for that young lady and for you is one of his promises.

The promises of God are true:

- Jesus promises never to leave you.

That is the truth.

- Jesus promises never to forsake you.

That is the truth.

- Jesus promises to take you to where he is.

That is the truth.



Don't be afraid of the Truth (Continued)

- There are many promises in God's word that is the truth.
- But you must seek his truth in his word. If you look for the truth, you will find it.
- If You look for Jesus, you will find him.
- In your Storm, you may wonder where Jesus is.
- Fear may consume you.
- But Jesus knows where you are.



Don't be afraid of the Truth (Continued)

- In their case, Jesus surely knew where they were.
- He sent them out there.
- Just like Jesus knew where the Disciples were, Jesus knows where you are.
- Jesus knows your situation.
- He will come to you, just like he came to the Disciples.
- He may come to you in a dream.

He may come to you through another person.
He may Speak to You through Holy Spirit.



Don't be afraid of the Truth (Continued)

- He may come to you while reading the Bible.
- He may come to you while praying or worshipping.
- He may come to you while listening to music.
- He may even come to you while listening to this sermon.
- Or he may come to you while listening to the sermon by another Pastor.
- But as surely as the spring rains come, Jesus will come to you.
- Keep your spiritual eyes and ears open.
- You will find him, the Truth, when you seek him.



Don't be afraid of the Truth (Continued)

“Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart”

Jeremiah 29:12-13

Seeking and finding Jesus is great encouragement for you and me.

- In the midst of your storms, Jesus invites you to confront your fears.
- He invites you to accept the truth of his word.
- You must choose to focus on Jesus, the Truth, rather than the storm.
- You see, He is the Way, the Truth and the Life **(John 14:6).**



Join Jesus in Something Miraculous

“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” he said.

Matthew 14:28-29

- Peter, in a moment of boldness, asks Jesus to command him to walk on the water.
- He didn’t ask to be saved.
- He asked to join Jesus in a Miracle.
- Walking on water is a Miracle.
- Let me pause with a warning.
- Don’t go out to Lake Michigan and test Jesus.
- Don’t say something like, “I will believe that you are real, if you command me to walk on water.”



Join Jesus in Something Miraculous (Continued)

- If you get out of your boat, you will drown if you cannot swim.
- The Bible tells you and me not to test our lord.
(Deuteronomy 6:16, Luke 4:12)
- But Peter's request was not a test.
- Remember that Peter had just witnessed Jesus feeding the five thousand.
- In addition, Peter had previously witnessed Jesus calming the sea.
- In a previous storm, Jesus spoke to the wind and the waves saying, "Peace Be Still".
- Therefore, Peter **knew** that Jesus could do the Miraculous.
- In addition, Peter had a different **Kind** of spirit.



Join Jesus in Something Miraculous (Continued)

- He was Impulsive.
- Peter presumes to know how Jesus will not die.
(**Matthew 16:22**)
- Peter is timid and cowardly (**Matthew 26:69**)
- Peter was courageous and immovable. (**Acts 4:19**)
- Peter was always first (**John 21:7**)
- So, Peter asked Jesus to join him in the Miraculous.
- Jesus responds with one simple word: “**Come.**”
- **This invitation is pivotal.**
- It challenges Peter to step out of the chaos and put his trust in Jesus.



Join Jesus in Something Miraculous (Continued)

- You, Too, **must step out of the chaos** and put your trust in Jesus.
- When storms arise, we often feel paralyzed.
- Yet, **faith requires movement.**
- Peter stepped out of the boat, not knowing what would happen next.
- In our lives, we are called to **take steps of faith, even when the seas are rough.**
- In the midst of your Storms, by faith **Join Jesus in the Miraculous.**
- Are you behind in your Rent or Mortgage?
- **Boldly ask Jesus** for the Finances to purchase Every Home on Your Block.
- If you are like me, that would be a Miracle.



Join Jesus in Something Miraculous (Continued)

- **Pray** that Jesus would allow you to join him in a miracle that will blow your mind.
- That's what Peter did.
- He **asked** Jesus to command him to walk on the water.
- If Jesus commanded all the disciples to walk on water, they all could have walked off that lake.
- Rather than being focused on your storm, ask Jesus to allow you to join him in something miraculous.
- The Story of the Atlanta Storm



Conclusion

When you are in a storm, don't let fear and doubt consume you.

- Remember that **God is Sovereign**.
- **He Knows** about your storm.
- **He is working** with you in your storm to reflect the very image of Jesus Christ.
- He is increasing your **Faith**.
- He is magnifying your **Perseverance**.
- He is strengthening your **Character**.
- He is giving you **Hope**.
- He is giving you a **Testimony**.

Conclusion (Cont.)

You will eventually lack nothing.

You will be complete in every way.

You will be in the Image of Jesus Christ.

Praise God.

- Step out in faith, even when the outcome is uncertain.

-Remember this:

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

(2 Corinthians 4:8-9)

Praise God.

End of Ralph Story

Ralph had just fallen 10 feet on a marble floor and broken his back.

That was a medical storm for Ralph.

He cried out in pain in this storm.

Ralph also prayed for relief in the midst of this storm.

Here is the good news.

Ralph was taken to the hospital.

After proper diagnoses, surgery was performed on Ralph's back.

End of Ralph's Story (Cont.)

The surgery went well.

The subsequent therapy went well.

And Ralph's back was ultimately healed.

It was later that Ralph realized even greater news.

Jesus was with him even before he fell.

Ralph now believes that the young lady who helped him was an Angel.

You see, when Ralph fell, he did not hit his head on the floor.

End of Ralph's Story (Cont.)

He did not bust his face, his teeth, nor any other part of his head.
Some people have fallen a shorter distance and unfortunately died.
Not only did Ralph not die, but he didn't even get a concussion.
He did not break an arm.
He did not break a leg.
He did not even stub his toe.

As **Psalms 91:11-12** states, an angel, that angel who helped him,
lifted Ralph up in her hands.

End of Ralph's Story (Cont.)

It could have been so much worse.

But God's presence, his ever presence, protected Ralph.

Ralph could then say, "when I look back over my life and I think things over."

"I can truly say that I have been blessed.

"I have a testimony."

Praise God.

Salvation and Benediction

How about you?

Do you have a testimony?

Now let me go the “yearlest” way.

If you are a Christian, God will be with you.

Trust God and obey his instruction.

Seek him and you will find him when you need him most.

If you are not a Christian, I have some “**Good News**” for you.

Today, you can become a Christian by accepting Jesus Christ as your
Lord and Savior.

You will then know Jesus in the midst of your storm.

Salvation and Benediction (Continued)

ROMANS 10:9 -10

“THAT IF YOU CONFESS WITH YOUR MOUTH,
‘JESUS IS LORD,’ AND BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART
THAT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, YOU
WILL BE SAVED.

FOR IT IS WITH YOUR HEART THAT YOU BELIEVE
AND ARE JUSTIFIED, AND IT IS WITH YOUR
MOUTH THAT YOU CONFESS AND ARE SAVED.”

Salvation and Benediction (Continued)



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Jude 24 -25

²⁴ To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— ²⁵ to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

2 Corinthians 13:14

¹⁴ May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

This is the word of God for the people of God.