

Remnant Life Church
August 18, 2013

Becoming a Water Walker

Mathew 14:22-36

- I enjoy magic tricks – illusions...
 - David Copperfield; Doug Henning; Harry Anderson; Lance Burton; Seigfield & Roy; Harry Blackstone
 - Especially up close sleight of hand - David Blaine
- Magicians try to outdo each other with more elaborate and seemingly impossible tasks
- Much of it is centered around defying the natural

- There are certain things a person cannot do:
 - Cannot walk through a solid object
 - Cannot defy gravity
 - Cannot stand or walk on top of water
- Jesus did things that no one before or since could do
 - He was not bound by the laws of earth
 - He had power and authority over the things of this world
 - Natural laws are subject to His authority
 - They were then and they still are today!
 - Definition of a miracle

Matthew 14:22-36

- Jesus had received word that His cousin John had been beheaded (v 12)
- He went off by Himself to pray but the crowd followed Him (v 13)
- He saw them and had compassion (v 14)
 - How do we respond to those who are in need or aren't like us?
- After a time the crowd was fed – 5000 (vv 15-21)
 - The only miracle that appears in all 4 Gospels
- Jesus still wanted time to pray
 - He sent His disciples across the water in a boat (v 22)
 - He went off alone (v 23)

- IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND - The disciples were in the will of God but there was still a storm to contend with
 - Storms do not necessarily mean we are in the wrong
 - Satan gets too much “credit” for things that happen

- Jesus comes out to them walking on the water
 - They believe it to be a ghost
 - Fisherman were very superstitious
 - The Sea of Galilee is actually a lake
 - 16 identified harbors in Jesus day

- It is only about 64 square miles
- Less than 150 feet at its deepest point
- Lowest freshwater lake in the world at 680 feet BSL
 - Winds blowing from the desert area of the Golan Heights from the east bring violent storms
 - Without scientific understanding the fisherman of the day had to be able to explain why the storms came
 - Most believed it was demonic or supernatural activity
 - Jesus appears at the fourth watch – 3-6 a.m. (v 25)
- Peter calls out that if it is truly Jesus then let him come out to Him on the water – Jesus says “come” (v 29)
- Peter is usually assessed unfairly for what then took place
 - He got out of the boat and walked on the water
 - We tend to focus on the fact that Peter sank while overlooking that fact that he did walk on the water!
 - (The man and his new hunting dog)
 - Apart from Jesus Peter was the first *Water Walker*
- How can I become a water walker today?

1. Don't despise the storms

- a. The disciples were in the middle of a storm because of Jesus
- b. He commanded them to go into the boat
- c. There are storms of **correction** and storms of **instruction**
- d. With every storm that we are allowed to enter there is always a divine purpose...IF
 - i. ...I am willing to take my eyes off myself long enough to see it
 - ii. ...I can learn to tell the difference or discern between a storm of life and a storm of disobedience

2. Be prepared and willing to take a step of faith

- a. Peter's step of faith required action
 - i. **James 2:26** – As the body without the spirit is dead, so *faith without deeds (action) is dead*
 - ii. True faith must have an action to bring it to life
 - iii. If Peter had stayed in the boat why did he need faith to believe it was Jesus?
- b. His faith was great because his expectation was great
 - i. **Math 8 and Luke 7** – the story of the centurion
 1. Jesus said he had not found such great faith in all of Israel
 2. Faith to heal his servant with just a word
 - ii. What are you expecting of God?
 - iii. Is your faith great enough for that expectation?

3. Keep Your Eyes on Jesus

- a. As long as Peter did he walked on the water

- b. He was the only one who stepped out of the boat
- c. Faith can start off strong, sometimes waiver in the middle of things, but then become strong again

4. Don't be hesitant to reach for a hand

- a. God knows when we need the help
 - i. His timing is always perfect (even if we don't think so)
 - ii. Many times He is simply waiting for us to acknowledge that we need Him
(Pslm 14:1 – *The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, their deeds are vile;*)
- b. The help may have many different appearances
- c. **Man praying to be rescued in the flood**

- A water walking Christian does not stay out of the storms
- The times when we begin to sink does not signal the end of the opportunity
 - We are many times too quick to give up
 - **Romans 5:1-4** - *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.*
- God's hand is always there to pull us up if we are willing to humble ourselves and acknowledge our need for Him
- As in all things of life, becoming a water walker is not about what we do it is what He is doing in and through us IF we are willing to humble ourselves AND put action to our faith.