

## **PETER WALKS ON WATER**

Matthew 14:22-33

This is a series about what happens when you REALLY follow Jesus. We are examining the events of Jesus and the 12 young men that literally walked with Him. Life was simple for them: wake up and follow Jesus wherever He went. So, this is our heritage: Go where He goes. Stay where He stays. Eat when He eats. Pray when He prays. Say what He says. So, our life has become amazingly simple – FOLLOW HIM.

Jesus puts His posse in a boat. (v.22) I know that sounds like the opening line of a bad joke. You just instinctively discern that this can easily go bad. It's the rainy season on the Sea of Galilee, and a strong westward wind turns the short trip into a frightening battle for survival. What is more scary - the storm or the strange figure that is coming toward them seemingly walking on the water? Whose idea was this? Jesus thought it up. And is He here now? Nooo! But they do see a ghost! What is this? Is this what it means to follow Jesus?

### **FIVE *More* OBSERVATIONS THAT REVEAL THE TRUTH ABOUT FOLLOWING JESUS**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Observation**

**You might be following Jesus if you find yourself in a storm.** vs. 22-28

If you are in a storm today, I know you are hoping that Jesus will get you out of it. Well, what if He is the one that sent you into the storm... OR ...the Bible teaches us that time and chance happen to us all (It rains on the just and the unjust Matthew 5:45) ... OR ...it could just be that time of year (rainy season)? Sometimes bad things happen to good people. No one's to blame. It's just life! Ok, then why follow Jesus?

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Observation**

**You might be following Jesus if you can only see the next step in front of you.** v. 29

We would all love for God to give us His plan for the next 25 years of our life. The whole concept of following Jesus is NOT determined by long range planning but is better discerned as a question of our obedience to walk with Him for the next 5 minutes. Following Jesus is not measured in accomplishment or arrival. It is measured in ordinary, sometimes mundane ... steps.

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Observation**

**You might be following Jesus if, at times, you wrestle with doubt.** v.31

Many people think doubt is incompatible with faith. It's NOT! Your faith in God is NOT intimidated by your momentary doubt. Neither is God! Jesus never said, "Peter! How could you? You doubted!" He simply said, "Peter, your faith is small, and your doubt is growing. What's happening?" Doubts prove that we are, indeed, out of the boat.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Observation**

**You might be following Jesus if you feel soaked.**

v. 31

One of the great misunderstandings of Christianity is that our goal is ... to stay dry. I'm gonna play ... to stay dry! May I introduce you to a radical thought? The goal of your walk with Jesus is NOT to stay dry. Sometimes you need to show up at Church soaking wet! It's obvious to all that you're soaking wet. But ... Hey! You got out there!

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Observation**

**You might be following Jesus if you are beginning to sink.**

v. 30

One of the things I love most about Jesus is His impeccable timing. He lets you sink a little bit before He pulls you up. He'll let you get all nice and soaked, but He won't let you stay there. It seems to me, that the best time to stop the storm is when Peter starts to sink. Jesus talks to Peter IN the storm and walks him back to the boat IN the storm. When they get back to the boat, the storm ceases. If you really want to see Jesus like no other place, you see Him IN the storm!