

NAVIGATING TRANSITION

Jesus will take His church through transition!

KEY POINTS

- ❖ Matthew 14:22-33 tells the story of Jesus walking on the waves of a violent storm, approaching the boat in which His disciples were struggling. Peter, having asked Jesus to call Him, left the boat and began to walk on the water with Jesus – until He "looked at the wind," lost courage and began to sink. Jesus took his hand and walked him back to the boat, saying, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" The wind died down and they all worshiped Jesus.
- ❖ The water of the lake is like our world. It's being agitated by the forces of the invisible wind. And the result is that the very life-sustaining, often serene and picturesque water has become a raging torrent of waves buffeting the boat.
- ❖ This lesson shows how the boat not only survives but *thrives* on the water, and it's an object lesson of how Jesus takes His church through transition!
- ❖ Here are three key points we see in Matthew 14:
 - Jesus is above the wind and the waves.**
- ❖ The fact that Jesus sent the disciples "ahead of Him" (v. 22) means that He was planning to follow. So shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. This miracle wasn't a spontaneous thing. He already knew where, when and how He was going to meet them when He sent them off.
- ❖ Jesus said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." The God who had sent them and said He would come to them had arrived. He had sent them out with purpose, not with fear, because fear paralyzes, but purpose powers you forward. The Lord Jesus will definitely walk on the storm-troubled water and save Peter, the other passengers and the boat.
- ❖ When we're navigating transition, it's crucial to be able to discern Jesus through the forces at play in the situation. But always look up, because Jesus is above every situation, willing to give us direction.
 - Peter is safe from the wind and the waves under Jesus' direction.**
- ❖ Inspired, but not yet fully convinced, Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, if it's you, tell me to come to you on the water." While he might not have been prepared to venture into miracle territory on His own, Peter had faith to do way-out things as long as He was under Jesus' direction. Jesus said to him, "Come."
- ❖ Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. Under Jesus' direction, he was safe with crisis all around him.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Matthew 14:22-33

- ❖ When Peter was called by Jesus, he looked at Jesus and behaved like Jesus. But when he looked at the wind, he was afraid, began to sink and cried out, "Lord, save me!" What he *looked at* determined whether he had faith or fear. And whether he had faith or fear determined whether he would walk on water or whether he would drown in it.
- ❖ In this sense, Peter (the "front man" of the disciples) was like a pastor. Pastors should look to Jesus. And the people "in the boat" watch the pastor, even though they too are viewing Jesus. Peter is safe from the wind and the waves under Jesus' direction. And so are the people in the wind-tossed boat.
 - Jesus will transition the boat safely through the wind and the waves.**
- ❖ Jesus and Peter climbed into the boat and the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." It seems they're convinced now – but it would take the infilling of the Holy Spirit before the disciples finally became self-aware that they were people on a mission – God's mission. Storms could arise but their boat could never sink because God was using it to deliver people *through* the turmoil.
- ❖ We can liken the disciples in the boat to the church congregation. There's nothing like a united group of people (Psalm 133; Genesis 11:6), but people have to choose to be united in the face of challenges, with the conviction that God is leading them to "destiny encounters" on the other side of the storm.
- ❖ Rest assured that God has a powerful spiritual offensive for the Church in this generation. And the gates of hell will not prevail against us as we storm those gates (Matt. 16:8).
- ❖ Jesus will surely take His church through this transition!

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. What are our greatest concerns when going through transition, and what do Matthew 14 and other scriptures teach us about faith/fear?
2. How can we fulfill the desire and prayer of Jesus (John 17:23) that we would be "one" (united)?

PRAYER TIME

Lord of lords, God of gods, we trust You to bring us through every storm and transition. Amen.

Start-up: How many times in your life have you moved? Which move(s) did you not look forward to and why? Were your qualms justified in the end?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, JULY 18, 2021

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline