

124. Jesus Walks on Water (Matthew 14:22-33)

Prayer: Heavenly Father, You tell us all things are possible through You. Many times we see troubles and problems that cause us to doubt You. Please take away our doubts and give us more faith in You. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Matthew 14:22-23. Jesus told the disciples to get into the boat and go to the other side of the lake. Jesus said He would come later. Jesus sent away the crowd of people, then He went up on the mountain to pray. Now it was evening, and Jesus was alone.

- Why did Jesus send everyone away?
- How were the disciples going across the lake? Did Jesus tell the disciples how He would follow them?

Matthew 14:24-26. The disciples were in the boat on the lake, far from land. The wind blew against them, and the waves pounded the boat. Early in the morning, between 3:00 and 6:00 in the morning, Jesus walked on the water and came to the disciples. The disciples saw Jesus walking on the water. They screamed in fear and said, "That is a ghost!"

- The disciples were in the boat almost 12 hours, maybe more. Where were they? Were they having an easy time crossing the lake?
- What did the disciples do when they saw Jesus walking on the water? How did they react?
- Which do the disciples have now, faith or fear?

Matthew 14:27-29. Immediately Jesus said, "Be brave! It is Me, Jesus. Don't be afraid." Peter answered and said, "Lord, if You are really Jesus, tell me to walk to You on the water." Jesus said, "Come!" Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water towards Jesus.

- How fast did Jesus comfort the disciples? Does God want us to be afraid? How fast does He give us encouragement and comfort?
- Peter is pretty gutsy. What does he say and do?
- What does Peter have now, faith or fear? Where did he get that faith and strength to walk on the water?
- When God encourages us, can we get that same kind of faith? Can we “walk on water?” Can we do things that seem impossible?

Matthew 14:30-33. When Peter saw the wind, he became afraid. He started to sink and yelled, “Lord, save me!” Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed Peter. Jesus said, “You have such little faith! Why did you doubt?” They both got into the boat, and the wind stopped. Then the disciples in the boat worshiped Jesus. They said, “You truly are God’s Son!”

- Peter did not have perfect faith, though. What made him afraid again?
- When Peter felt in trouble, he did the right thing. What did he say? What did Jesus immediately do?
- When we are in trouble, where should we immediately go?
- Even though Peter started to sink, Peter was able to walk on water. But how much faith did Jesus say Peter had?
- Jesus and Peter entered the boat and the wind stopped. The disciples worshiped Jesus and praised Him as God’s Son. When we see God doing wonderful things, what should we do?