

9-8-19 FAMILY PICNIC AT SHADES BEACH

JESUS WALKS ON THE WATER – Matthew 14:22-33

As we celebrate our church family today at SHADES BEACH, the waterscape just north of us makes an imprint upon each of us that recollects many thoughts and emotions --- of tranquility – power— beauty --- creation --- ‘lake storms’ etc. --- WHAT ARE SOME OF YOURS?

I am reminded of JESUS WALKING ON THE WATER and of PETER GETTING OUT OF THE BOAT TO WALK TOWARDS JESUS – of Peter sinking --- and THEN of Jesus REACHING DOWN to LIFT PETER UP returning him to the safety of their little boat --- AND THEN OF JESUS CALMING THE STORM.

+ WHY WOULD JESUS SEND HIS DISCIPLES INTO A STORM?

+ WHAT LESSONS MAY WE LEARN THAT WE MAY APPLY TO OUR LIVES AS WE TOO FACE “THE STORMS OF LIFE”?

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.”

TEXT & CONTEXT: According to the Gospel of Matthew

*** Immediately AFTER the “Feeding of the 5,000”

*** Immediately AFTER learning that John the Baptist was beheaded

WHY WOULD JESUS SEND THE DISCIPLES INTO A PENDING STORM?

WOULD YOU HAVE RECOGNIZED JESUS IN THE MIDST OF THE STORMS OF YOUR LIFE? Are you looking for Jesus in the midst of your storms?

Vs. 27 -- **And Jesus said, “TAKE COURAGE, IT IS I”. DON’T BE AFRAID ---**

- + Jesus INVITES US to let go of the consuming fears of life!
- + What FEARS overcome you?
- + What FEARS do you need to turn over to Jesus?
 - The power of “naming”
 - The power of turning your back & “letting go”

THINKING ABOUT “PETER”:

- + Can I trust my senses?
- + Jesus --- Can I ‘trust’ you?
- + CRITICAL IMPORTANCE of ALWAYS MOVING TOWARDS JESUS
- + FAITH ALWAYS leads to ACTION

Are you sometimes crippled by fear?

- + Calm down and “think” --- Is my fear real? Can I trust Jesus?
- + STAND UP --- STEP OUT --- ALWAYS MOVE TOWARDS JESUS

WHAT HAPPENED WHEN PETER “LOST FOCUS” - TURNED HIS ATTENTION AWAY FROM JESUS AND ALLOWED THE WIND TO REIGNITE HIS FEARS?

PETER CRIED OUT, “LORD SAVE ME” --- ARE YOU WILLING TO ASK FOR HELP? --- Involves admitting that we cannot save ourselves and that we NEED HELP!!!!

PETER WAS WILLING TO LET JESUS PICK HIM UP – ARE YOU?

F.E.A.R.

Face your FEARS with FAITH

Examine your PREDISPOSITIONS in light of the FACTS

Attack your ANXIETIES with ACTIONS

Release your CARES to GOD

VIP: JESUS IS LORD OF ALL THINGS, INCLUDING THE STORMS IN YOUR LIFE!