

The Life of the Apostle Peter

Study # 5

Lessons from the Billows: Walking on the Water

Matthew 14:22-33

(With Interpolations from Mark and John)

KEY: FROM MARK, From John

And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, UNTO BETHSAIDA while he sent the multitudes away. 23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone ON THE LAND And ... his disciples went down unto the sea, and entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. 24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew. And it was now dark, and Jesus was not come to them. AND HE SAW THEM TOILING IN ROWING. 25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea AND WOULD HAVE PASSED BY THEM [NOTE: *Had they not cried out, see Mark*]. So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship. 26 And when ALL the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. 27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. 28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. 29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. 31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? AND HE WENT UP UNTO THEM INTO THE SHIP. Then they willingly received him into the ship. 32 And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased. And immediately the ship was at the land whither they went. AND THEY WERE SORE AMAZED IN THEMSELVES BEYOND MEASURE, AND WONDERED. FOR THEY CONSIDERED NOT THE MIRACLE OF THE LOAVES: FOR THEIR HEART WAS HARDENED. 33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

I. THE DISCIPLES DEPARTURE

(Mt. 14:22,23)

A. The Requirement (22, 23C)

1. The Order (22)
2. The Obedience (23C)

B. The Reason (23 A,B)

1. The People (23A; Heb. 10:9)
2. The Prayer (23B)
 - a. Individual Needs
 - b. Intercessory Needs

II. THE DISCIPLES' DILEMMA

(Matthew 14:24)

A. The Setting (14:24; Jn. 6:18)

1. The Distance
2. The Danger
3. The Darkness

B. The Seeing

1. They Did Not See Jesus (Jn. 6:17)
2. But Jesus Saw Them (Mk. 6:48)

III. THE DISCIPLES' DISCOVERY

(14:25-26)

A. The Approach of the Master

(14:25; Mk. 6:48)

1. His Heart
2. His Hearing

B. The Awareness of the Men (Jn. 6:19)

C. The Anxiety of the Men (14:26)

IV. THE DISCIPLES' DELIGHT (Mt. 14:27-30)

A. The Comfort (14:27)

B. The Confidence (Mt. 14:28-31)

1. The Start
(14:28-29; 7:21; James 1:22)
2. The Sinking (14:30)
 - a. The Reality of the Storm
 - 1) It was Unpredictable
 - 2) It was Unseen
 - b. The Result of the Storm
 - c. The Remedy in the Storm
(Ps. 50:15; Is. 26:3)
3. The Saving (14:31)

C. The Calming (14:32; Mk. 6:51; Jn. 6:21)

1. Their Welcome of the Savior
2. The Wonders of the Savior

V. THE DISCIPLES' DEFICIENCY

(Mk. 6:51)

A. A Problem in the Head

(Hos. 8:12; Ps. 119:18)

B. A Problem in the Heart

(Gen. 6:5; Jer. 17:9; Pr. 28:26; Heb. 3:12)

VI. THE DISCIPLES' DEVOTION (Mt. 14:33)

CONCLUSION: