

Blessed Is The Man Whose Strength Is In God

- I. An example of someone in the Bible who set their heart on pilgrimage, went through a “valley of Baca” experience which caused him to discover his strength was in God is found in the story of Peter walking on water.
- Matthew 14:22-33 - Did you ever wonder why this story is in the Bible?
 - **was it to prove to the disciples that Jesus was powerful? He had just fed the 5,000.**
 - was it because He couldn't get to the other side? Others had walked around. Surely there was another boat.
 - **Jesus had always refrained from using God's power for His Own personal comfort. (In the Temptation of the Wilderness)**
 - was it to start a "Walking on water Ministry?" No one has ever done this before or since.
 - **Biblical miracles are evidence of God's compassion and His desire to meet people's need.**
 - But what about this miracle how does it serve to meet a human need.
 - **It looks and sounds like a magicians trick.**
 - This seemed so out of Character for the Lord - to flaunt His supernatural power for no apparent redemptive purpose.
 - **He had always fought the temptation to use His powers strictly for the spectacular or to show off.**
 - He had refused to become a side show, He always tried to understate the things He did.
 - **I can understand why He would use His powers to touch the woman with the issue of blood.**
 - Or why he healed the blind eyes and open shut ears.
 - **I have no problem understanding why he used His powers to touch the lame, heal the lepers and raise the Lazarus.**
 - I can even understand why He feed the 5,000, stilled the storm, or changed water to wine
 - **All of these were redemptive in nature. BUT WHY DID HE WALK ON THE WATER?**
 - I hope to answer that question as we look at a Purpose filled Storm, a Petrified Sailor, and a Powerful Sailor.

A. A PURPOSE-FILLED STORM - Verse 22-24 - God never promised us Storm free life.

- **We need to learn to maintain our joy in the midst of the storm.**
 - Nehemiah 8:10 (TEV) Today is holy to our Lord, so don't be sad. The joy that the LORD gives you will make you strong."
 - **Singing in the rain - Gomer Pyle syndrome. (2 stories)**
1. The King James states that Jesus "constrained His disciples to get into the boat." The greek word is "*parabiasomai*" which means to employ force contrary to their will.
 - a. **Jesus had just fed the 5,000 and they wanted to make Him king (John 6:14)**
 - 1) This was the first time the disciples are participated in a miracle with Jesus.
 - 2) **They were the stars in this event.**
 - 3) They had the big MO going, which has an energy all of it's own.
 - b. **The disciples were wanting Jesus to finally take His role as king and restore the nation of Israel.**
 - c. The disciples would have been His generals.
They were wanting weapons but they got oars.
Rather than being sent to fight - they were sent to float.
 - d. **Jesus knew how seductive the intoxicating wine of new found popularity can be.**
 - e. He didn't want their perspective clouded.
 2. **Jesus is the one that sent them into the storm - the storm always seems contrary to word.**
 - The winds of circumstance will always blow contrary to the word of the Lord.
 - **Get your guidance from the word not the wind.**
 - Contrary winds causes people to become Port Christians
 - a. **The word translated battered is "bas-an-id'-zo" it means torture-toil.**
 - b. It was only about 6 miles across and at least 4 of these men were seasoned fishermen. This was their element.
 - c. Mark 6:48 - **Jesus came at 3:00 a.m. they had been in the storm for 9 hours.**
 - struggling - wandering - mad
 - **He intended to pass them by - Why?**
 - The storm empty them of the pride that filled them from the miracle.

B. A PETRIFIED SAILOR - Verses 25-31

- 1. The Lord allows the storm to produce in us a certain degree of helplessness and desperation.**
 - a. The storm will cause us to run out of all other options but Him - That's why he waited 9 hours.
 - b. The Lord loves stacking the deck against Himself.**
 - Against all odds
 - **The storm brings you to the end of your strength**
2. Do you think Peter would have asked to come and walk on the water if it had been a clear calm day?
 - a. Peter was desperate in the boat they were going down, but Jesus was staying up.**
 - b. Give a man a choice between a sure death or a crazy chance and he will take the chance everytime.
 - c. Heros aren't made they are cornered.**
 - d. A lot of times what looks like great courage is just a desperate act from someone who has no other options
 - e. The story of the bull and the bear.**
3. Great acts of faith are seldom born out of calm calculation
 - a. It wasn't logic that caused moses to raise his staff on the bank of the red sea.**
 - b. It wasn't prophetic insight that caused the 4 lepers to walk towards the enemy cam
 - c. It wasn't medical research that convinced Naaman to dip seven times in foreign**
 - d. It wasn't a confident committee that prayed in a small room in Jerusalem for Peter's release from prison. It was a fearful, desperate band of backed into a corner believers with no other options.
- 4. Faith is a desperate dive out of a sinking boat and a prayer that God will hold you up.**
5. Faith is God telling you to go out on a limb.
- 6. The story of the Officer and His wife.**
7. God will send you into a storm, and while He is sinking your boat will challenge you to do the impossible.

C. THE SAVIOR IS POWERFUL - Verses 32-33

1. **God does the impossible if you don't give up - He loves to surprise us.**
 - a. Just when the womb gets too old for babies - Sarah
 - b. Just when all of Joseph's hopes of release from prison are dashed - he is made Prime Minister.**
 - c. Just when failure is too great for grace - David gets a pardon.
 - d. Michael Powers - Bill Lawton**
2. The storm clarified their perception of who He was.
3. Verse 33 - *"Then those who were in the boat worshipped Him."*
 - a. This is the first recorded time that the disciples worshipped the Lord corporately.
 - b. They didn't worship Him when He preached to the masses**
or forgave the adultress,
or raised the dead,
or even when He fed the 5,000.
 - c. Only this time on the stormy sea. WHY?**
4. Because they were the ones saved. They were plucked from the storm of death.
 - a. When you see God as Creator you will admire Him.**
 - b. When you recognize His wisdom you will learn from Him
 - c. When you discover His strength you will rely on Him.**
 - d. But when He saves you, you will worship Him.
5. **A stormy time is a small price to pay for a clearer view of God.**
 - a. God will send you out into a storm and then let you get desperate enough to need Him
 - b. Then He will come to you.**
 - c. God will use your storms as his path to you.

Verses 34-36 - *"When they had crossed over, ... the men of that place recognized Him, they sent word ... to all who were sick ... and as many as touched Him were cured."*