

FAITH: WHEN FAITH WAVERS



CONNECTION TO MESSAGE 3

WITH HIM BEFORE SENT BY HIM. PRESENCE BEFORE PERFORMANCE. FORMATION BEFORE MISSION. Matthew 14 shows Peter being formed by Jesus. The feeding of the 5,000 precedes this scene, and Mark 6:52 explicitly connects the sea episode to the loaves.

BIG IDEA

Jesus reveals Himself as the sovereign Son of God who calls us to trust His word, holds us when our faith wavers, and leads us into deeper worship.

PETER'S FAITH WAVERS. JESUS DOES NOT.

I. JESUS SOMETIMES LEADS HIS DISCIPLES INTO CIRCUMSTANCES THAT TEST THEIR FAITH. (Matt 14:22-24)

- ἀναγκάζω (anankazō): make, compel, strongly urge.
- Jesus sends the disciples into the boat; their struggle occurs while obeying Him.
- Mark says Jesus sees them straining at the oars.
- Christ's apparent absence is not Christ's ignorance.
- Difficulty is not necessarily evidence that we have stepped outside God's will.

Difficulty may come while you are obeying Christ.

II. JESUS REVEALS HIS DIVINE IDENTITY IN THE VERY THING HIS DISCIPLES FEAR. (vv. 25-27)

- Fourth watch: approximately 3-6 a.m.
- Job 9:8 LXX: περιπατῶν (peripatōn) ... ἐπὶ θαλάσσης (epi thalassēs). God alone walks upon the sea.
- Psalm 77:19 and Psalm 107:23-30 frame God's way through the sea and His rescue of sailors.
- ἐγώ εἰμι (egō eimi): ordinary "It is I," with significant divine resonance in this Old Testament sea setting. Not an explicit Exodus 3:14 quotation.

The answer to fear begins with Christ's presence: "It is I; do not be afraid."

NOTES

MESSAGE 4 - FOLLOW-ALONG GUIDE

III. FAITH ACTS UPON CHRIST'S WORD EVEN BEFORE THE CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE. (vv. 28–29)

- Peter asks for Christ's command: "Command me to come to You." Jesus says, "Come."
- Luke 5: "At Your word." Matthew 14: "Command me... Come."
- Faith takes Jesus at His word. The wind is still blowing when Peter gets out of the boat.

IV. OUR FAITH WAVERS WHEN OUR CIRCUMSTANCES BECOME MORE COMPELLING THAN CHRIST'S WORD. (vv. 30–31)

- ὀλιγόπιστος (oligopistos): little faith, not no faith.
- διστάζω (distazō): doubt, waver.
- "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him.
- Little faith forgets in the present what Jesus has already revealed in the past.

The wind becomes more compelling than the One who said, "Come."

V. JESUS USES WAVERING FAITH TO LEAD HIS DISCIPLES INTO DEEPER WORSHIP. (vv. 32–33)

- Matthew 8:27: "What kind of a man is this?" Matthew 14:33: "You are certainly God's Son!"
- Jesus enters the boat. The wind stops. The disciples worship Him.
- Deeper Christology is the fruit of being formed by Jesus.

THEOLOGICAL GUARDRAIL

NOT: Get out of the boat → believe hard enough → accomplish extraordinary things.

RATHER: Christ reveals Himself → Peter trusts → Peter wavers → Christ rescues → Christ corrects → disciples worship.

REFLECTION & APPLICATION

Where are present circumstances becoming more compelling to me than what Christ has said?

What has Jesus already shown me about Himself that I am tempted to forget?

When my faith wavers, do I withdraw—or cry, "Lord, save me"?

Is difficulty producing greater fear of circumstances or deeper knowledge and worship of Christ?

The strength of Peter's Savior was the ultimate security of Peter.

YOUR FAITH MAY WAVER. YOUR SAVIOR DOES NOT.

NOTES