

Trusting Jesus

Matthew 14:16-33

Welcome back! And here we go! Today we talk about faith in Jesus, faith in ourselves and faith in the mixture! I mean this is three different things.

- 1) Which do you think is most important?

Matthew 14:16-33

Last week we talked about feeding the flock, that it is our job to feed these people in our lives. Each of us is meant to bring light to the lives of the people God brings to us. In this story, the feeding of 5000. Jesus provided and they each had a basket of fragments left. Fragments of Jesus' teachings for sure..... the real spiritual food.

- 2) How do you use fragments of what you learn to teach others?

Truly, this first scenario: total reliance on Jesus --- our faith in Jesus.

Matthew 14:22-27

So, I did not do the math. I am lazy, but I have heard it enough I have enough fragments to teach and say, *"Jesus put them in a boat, they rowed out on their own, and got stuck in the middle of the lake, some say for hours, like they made no progress."*

My thought is, "they just received 12 baskets --- are they rowing on their own strength out of pride? They just went out to..... Or is it forgetfulness, like Aaron?...."

- 3) How do we end up on a lake alone as Christians?

Obviously, that was faith in self. That never really works.

Matthew 14:27-33

Here we see Peter saying, Hey I want to do what You do: heal, cast out, feed the lost, walk on water.....

For a minute he does it. He believes he can do the miraculous, because Jesus said he could. He believes in Jesus and he believes in himself. He believes Jesus has equipped him. Next he looked at the waves and no longer believed in himself.

Lots of metaphors here. But the truth is it demonstrates our need for Jesus!

4) How do we gain confidence in our abilities as a Christian?

Obviously, we need spiritual self-esteem, meaning *"I actually believe what God says about me"*.

I can then do things I could never do before. God actually uses me/us.

We need to have faith in ourselves as vessels. God has chosen you... ADOPTED you, given you an INHERITANCE.

But, when we reflect on who we are, we lose confidence. We lose faith in ourselves, not in Jesus, but in ourselves.

5) How do you lose faith in yourself?

You know God wants to use you, in a BIG WAY!

Matthew 14:31-33

Immediately, the storm stopped. Jesus can stop the storms. You can do all things.... You can do this.... Whatever THIS is.

Stay focused.

6) Where would you like Jesus to get back in your boat?

Let's pray.