

Speaker : Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
Title : Be of Good Cheer – Be Courageous
Scriptures : Matthew 14:22-33

Introduction:

- Educators use teaching aids like whiteboards, pictures etc.
- Jesus, in teaching, referred to nature, told parables pointed to events- even adverse circumstances, incidents etc.

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

- Jesus taught the crowds as well as to the individual
 - The feeding of the 5,000
 - Individuals like Nicodemus, the rich young ruler and Peter (Matthew 14:22-33)

“Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. ²³ And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. ²⁴ But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. ²⁵ Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.” ²⁸ And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” ²⁹ So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!” ³¹ And immediately Jesus stretched out *His* hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God” (Matthew 14:22-33)

- Peter was caught in a boisterous wind as he walked on water (v. 30)
 - Your storm could be a boisterous marriage or business a personal battle for righteous living or financial turmoil
 - Your storm could be the reason for obeying God and doing what is right
 - You could be all alone in the storm caused by your obedience to Jesus
 - like Peter

The Storm Was About 'Faith' Not 'No Faith'

- Faith can cause boisterous winds to blow
 - For faith to be faith we must face adverse circumstances
 - Storms prove our faith - Peter had faith to walk on water
- It is not because we have no faith that we have storms in life, but because we have faith
 - Our faith will permit us to face Goliath
 - Our faith will permit us to face the Walls of Jericho
 - Our faith will permit us to face Mountains
- Faith does not only stop storms but storms prove our faith

“And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” (Matthew 14:31)

Jesus Did Not Need To Walk on Water but He Did To Teach You about Faith

There are 3 vital truths about acting in faith found in Matthew 14:27-33

“But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid” (Matthew 14:27)

1. “Be of good cheer” or “Take courage”

- This is what God said to Joshua

“Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.

⁷ Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go”

(Joshua 1:6, 7)

2. “It is I” or “I am with you”

- Moses desired God’s Presence

“And He said, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

¹⁵ Then he said to Him, “If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here” (Exodus 33:14, 15)

The Presence of God will bring:

- The Provision of God
- The Power of God
- Fulfill the Purpose of God or the will of God

- What was God's Provision for Peter who was beginning to sink?

"And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14:31)

- ~ God's Provision is for those who obey Him is that God will show up
- ~ E.g. The fourth man in the furnace with the three Hebrew children

- What was the Power of God?

"And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased" (Matthew 14:32)

- ~ God's power is seen when you have a need
- ~ E.g. Paul (2 Corinthians 12:10)

"Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities in distress, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, than I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10)

- What was God's Purpose?

- ~ To worship and acknowledge God

"Then those who were in the boat came and [a] worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God" (Matthew 14:33)

- ~ There is not a crisis in life that God does not have a miracle for you

3. Do not be afraid

- Peter said, "if, it is you" – not the language of faith

"And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water" (Matthew 14:28)

- That's how Satan speaks

"If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread" (Luke 4:3)

- To hear and know God's will, believe and obey
- To walk in faith you have to leave the rest and the boat

- Faith is spiritual. It challenges your five senses

- Peter walked on water but then, he began to feel and that is when he began to sink
- God's Presence, Provision, Power and Purpose is spiritual
- We live and walk by Faith

Conclusion

“And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.” The boat was to bring them to the other side” (Matthew 14:32)

“No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is from Me,” Says the LORD” (Isaiah 54:17)