**The Winds & The Waves**

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday September 16th, 2018

Text: Mark 4:36-41; Matthew 14:22-33

Intro

1. There are things in life that remind us that we as mortals are not in control! (sometimes hard lessons) – This past week was one of those reminders…
   1. 9/11 (09/11/2001) Memorial this week marked 17 years since hate brought down the Twin Towers, struck the Pentagon, and crashed a field, as well as sent heroes to their deaths trying to rescue; a remembrance that stirred up emotions on a national level.
   2. Hurricane Florence dominated the news all week! Warnings of her winds and waves caused mandatory evacuations all along the Carolinas coast. Some news organizations tried to blame it on man, but man has no control to cause or to stop such a thing!
2. In these moments when the winds and the waves cause doubt and fear, we need to trust in the One who is in control and can say, “Peace, be still!”
3. **Mk. 4:36-41:** Jesus with the apostles in a boat when a storm arose.
   1. Jesus was asleep and the disciples woke Him in fear (Lk. 8:24: “Master, Master, we are perishing!”). Seasoned sailors in fear (Lk. 8:23: The boat was filling with water and they “were in jeopardy”)!
   2. Jesus chastised them for their fear and doubt then “rebuked” the storm and said, “Peace, be still” (NKJ) and it became calm.
   3. The disciples were even more fearful of Jesus (Lk. 8:25: “And they were afraid, and marveled”) saying, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?”
4. **Mt. 14:22-33:** The apostles in a storm in middle of night without Jesus (After feeding 5,000).
   1. **14:22-23:** Jesus sends His disciples into a boat ahead of Him and after sending the multitudes away, He goes up to a mountain to pray alone. (Mk. 6:45-46; Jn. 6:15)
   2. **14:24-25:** Night came and a storm arose (Jn. 6:18). The boat was far from shore (3-4 miles – Jn. 6:19) and about 3-6A.M. (4th Watch of the night), He came out to them in the boat walking on the sea (Mk. 6:47-48).
   3. **14:26-27:** His disciples saw Him walking on the water and cried out, “It’s a ghost!” and they were frightened. But Jesus told them to not be afraid and that it was Him.
   4. **14:28-29:** Peter told Him if it really was Him; tell him to come out to Jesus. Jesus told Peter to come. Peter got out of the boat and began walking on the water towards Jesus.
      1. We may often remember this account as the time Peter sank!
      2. We may remember it that way (or refer to it that way) because Peter was the only one to get out of the boat! The other apostles stayed aboard!
      3. Peter climbed over the side of the boat to land not in the water, but on the water, for it says he “walked on the water and came toward Jesus.”
   5. **14:30-33:** But upon seeing the wind, Peter became afraid and began to sink. He called out to Jesus to save him, and He reached out and pulled Peter out of the water and said, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”
      1. Jesus didn’t say, “You wanted this, and you failed so get yourself out!”
      2. When Peter sank, it says, “Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him.”
      3. Peter had great faith! Only one of the twelve to get out of the boat and walk on the water to Jesus!
      4. When he sank Jesus was there to lift him up!
   6. They got into the boat and the storm stopped and His disciples exclaimed that He was the Son of God.
5. ***Mt. 11:28-30:*** Jesus has said to mankind, “Come unto Me…”
   1. Like to Peter Jesus has said “Come” to all those willing to have eternal life!
   2. Like Peter we want to come and have faith to do it but sometimes we get distracted and discouraged by the “winds and waves” about us and we sink out of fear and doubt!
6. *Col. 3:1; Heb. 12:1-2:* Let us recognize the winds and the waves as distractions but focus our eyes on Jesus!
7. **Fear**
   1. **Fear** = A feeling of reverence, awe, respect, and an unpleasant emotion caused from a sense of danger (Webster’s)
   2. A harmful fear is a sense of terror or dread.
      1. Mt. 10:28: We are not to fear human beings. “Fear not those that can kill the body, but rather fear Him who can destroy both body & soul in Hell.”
      2. Man cannot ultimately harm us! *(Rom. 8:31: “If God is for us, who is against us?”)*
   3. This type of fear is a trait of the wicked.
      1. *Prov. 28:1:* The wicked flee with no one pursuing.
      2. *Rom. 13:3-4:* The wicked fear authority or the government. We are to be righteous and not to fear the government.
      3. *Jn. 19:1-16:* Out of fear (19:8), Pilate, who knew Jesus was innocent (Mk. 15:14-15), sentenced Him to death.
      4. Rev. 21:8: Cowards listed among those cast into hell. *(Mt. 10:33: Deny him = cowardly)*
   4. Eph. 5:1-2: We are to be imitators of God. Did Jesus live His life in fear?
      1. I Cor. 11:1: Paul says, “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”
      2. Neither Jesus nor Paul let fear govern their lives.
   5. Christ is there holding His hand out to us and we sometimes just get too distracted on our way there. Our fears grip us and we sink.
      1. Rom. 8:31: “If God is for us, who is against us?” Nothing to fear if on God’s side.
      2. Rom. 8:32-39: God is on our side when we walk in righteousness, as we should. Christ intercedes for us. Why do we let our fears get in the way and deter us from serving Him?
      3. Prov. 9:10: Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
      4. Eccl. 12:13-14: The importance of fearing the Lord and keeping His commandments. He will judge both the wicked and the righteous.
   6. Let us not fear to the detriment of our souls, but have faith in God to accomplish His will in our lives!
8. **Doubt**
9. **Doubt** = A lack of confidence, hesitation, inclination not to believe, distrust (Webster’s)
10. Many times our doubts cause us to hesitate or stop completely (“sink”).
    1. *Jn. 20:24-29:* Thomas doubted and was rebuked.
    2. *Lk. 24:36-40:* His apostles were rebuked for doubting.
    3. *Rom. 3:3:* Unbelief will not nullify God’s faithfulness.
    4. *Heb. 3:19:* Israelites were not permitted to enter their promised land due to their doubts or unbelief.
    5. *Mt. 13:58:* Due to the unbelief of the Nazarenes, people in Jesus’ hometown of Nazareth, Christ would not perform miracles there.
11. When we doubt, we cannot be effective examples of Christ to the world or those around us.
    1. *Mt. 5:13-16:* When we doubt our abilities or we are unsure of our faith, we cannot do what Christ has said here. We cannot be lights unto the world. We become dim if lit at all.
    2. Js. 1:6: When we doubt we cannot expect our prayers to be answered! (Js. 1:5-8)
12. Phil. 4:13: Paul said, “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.” (Confidence!)
    1. II Tim. 1:79: We are not to be timid, but have confidence through Jesus! (II Cor. 3:4)
    2. Heb. 3:6; 4:16; 10:19, 35: We have confidence to approach the throne of grace, and in times of need we are not to throw away our confidence!
    3. I Jn. 2:28; 3:21; 4:17; 5:14: We need confidence and to know we can ask God anything in accordance with His will and know He will hear us!
13. Let us have confidence in our faith and see what God can do through us!

#### Conclusion

1. Seasoned sailors saw the “winds and waves” filling their boat and they were in jeopardy – they went to the only One who could stop it!
2. Peter walked on the water out to Christ, full of confidence, but became distracted by the winds and the waves of the storm – When he sank he called out to the only One who could save him!
3. When we walk by sight (II Cor. 5:6-7) we can become distracted by the “winds and the waves” and give in to fear and doubt (Mt. 8:26; 14:31) and before we know it we are sinking!
4. We are to walk by faith (II Cor. 5:7) and focus on Jesus, the Master of the “winds and the waves,” Who is in control of things we have no control over and is the only One who can grant peace.
5. Let us put our trust in Jesus so that we may one day live with God Almighty in that home in Heaven He has prepared *(Jn. 14:1-6).*
6. An indescribable peace takes possession of the soul, gliding on a tranquil sea to the haven of eternal rest.
   1. Is. 57:20-21: No peace for the wicked!
   2. Rom. 5:1; Phil. 4:7: Saints have the “peace of God” through Jesus Christ! *(The only One Who can calm our storms of life!)*
7. Jesus is the Master of the winds & waves of the sea *(Mt. 8:27),* and He will be Master over your “winds & waves” if you but come to Him and lay your burdens at His feet *(Mt. 11:28; I Pet. 5:7)!*
8. If not a Christian, need to be! Repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins!
9. If a Christian in error, repent and be renewed!
10. Whatever your requests, let them be known ***NOW*** while we stand and sing.