

(How to) Get Out of The Boat

Get Out of The Boat (9-29-21)

Matt. 14:22-33

- What do we mean by, “Get out of the boat?”
 - Getting past what ever may be challenging or limiting your spiritual growth.
- The short answer is faith.
 - “...this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” - 1 John 5:4
 - Our battles are fought and won by faith. Our faith is spiritual power that fights spiritual battles.
 - “For we wrestle not with flesh and blood...” - Eph. 6:12
 - Matt. 14:30 Amp. “But when he saw [the effects of] the wind...”
 - Anything that can be gained spiritually must be gained or received by faith.
 - Even salvation -
 - Eph. 2:8 - “For by grace are ye saved through faith...”
 - Romans 4:16 - “Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace...”
 - vs. 13-22

I. Seek God

- A. If we never turn our ear toward God, we will never truly hear Him.
 - 1. Hebrews 11:6 “... He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.”
- B. It doesn't matter what boat you're in, you need to seek God.
 - 1. Peter sought after Jesus - “Lord, if it be Thou, bid me come...”
 - a) Usually God is already speaking to us, and when we pay a bit of attention we can start to hear something.
- C. We can all seek God in any situation.
 - 1. We all have the power to focus on what we want in any situation.
 - a) Some will be more challenging than others.
- D. We will fail if we try to get out on our own.
 - 1. Peter would have sank with the very first step if Jesus had not said “come.”
 - 2. He wasn't walking in his own power!

II. Listen to God

- A. What are you standing on/listening to? The water, or the word?
 - 1. Peter was not necessarily waking on water but on the word of Jesus.
- B. Faith will overcome when we listen to God's word, but when we listen to something else “it” wins.
 - 1. Matt. 14:31 - “...wherefore didst thou doubt?” could also be interpreted “allow yourself to be drawn in two directions.”
 - a) Not just that he went the wrong direction, but that he was drawn in more than one direction.
 - b) James 1:6-8

2. The things we pay attention to will control us.
 - a) Peter changed his focus from Jesus to the waves and he started to sink.
 - b) By making things big/important in our life we are magnifying it.
 - (1) This is a good definition of worship!
 - c) We worship God by living in faith and turning our attention to what He is communicating to us, because we are making Him important in our eyes.
(thoughts, actions, motives, character, etc.)
 - (1) At First Peter saw Jesus MORE than the wind and waves, but then he changed his focus to the waves and they became bigger than Jesus.
 - d) Where is your focus? What are you magnifying in your life? In certain areas of your life?

III. Obey God

A. James 1:22-26

1. vs. 22 - We tend to get excited about the word but not so much about the doing.
2. vs. 26 - The things that we communicate with our mouth tells a lot about what we believe.
 - a) The first step of “walking” in faith is confession.
 - b) Jesus said, “...for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.” - Luke 6:45
 - c) Sometimes we need to move from just praying to speaking and proclaiming.
 - d) If we truly believe something, it will be reflected in the things that we say first.

B. Be willing to get nervous for God - Scott