

“Beginning to Sink”

Pastor Jeff Alexander + August 13, 2017

Matthew 14:22-24

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

Immediately after feeding thousands, Jesus climbs a hill to pray alone. This is a sign that a significant ministry moment is about to occur.

The disciples were struggling without Jesus, more than three miles away from Him on the Sea of Galilee.

Matthew 14:25

Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.

The Light was about to break through! Jesus reveals His divinity by walking on the water.

Matthew 14:26

When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

The disciples were not far off in thinking they saw a “*phantasma*.” They knew this was no mere mortal coming their way!

Matthew 14:27

But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

Echoing the Lord’s words to Moses (“I AM WHO I AM”), Jesus reveals His true identity.

Matthew 14:28-30

“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”

Peter began to sink when he stopped focusing on the object of His faith: Jesus.

Matthew 14:31

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

Romans 10:13

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Matthew 14:32-33

And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

How does the disciples’ response to Jesus reveal their growth?