

RIDERS ON THE STORM

Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic

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The story of Jesus walking on the water to save His disciples (Mt. 14: 22-32) is an assurance that, despite the storms that we will encounter in our journey, Jesus will always be there to save us. The storms of life are terrifying, but the Lord comes to us “riding” in the very “waves” of our fears. He will always speak peace to our souls.

- A. **How He sent the disciples:** In Mt. 14: 22, Jesus compelled His disciples to get into the boat. He had a purpose for doing so - to test them. Likewise, if we are in a “storm,” Lord sent us into it. The Lord will never allow us to be tested beyond what we can bear (1 Cor. 10: 13). God sent each of us to this community with a purpose. When we serve God, we will be facing “storms” (trials & difficulties). He tests our faith. “...all who want to live religiously in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (2 Tim 3:12).
- B. **Jesus went up to the mountain to pray** (Mt. 14: 23). He interceded for His disciples. He knew that they would face life-threatening situations. In the same way, Jesus is our Intercessor even to this day. He understands our struggles in life.
- C. **How He saw them:** He saw that the disciples were frightened. They thought they would die. Jesus understood what they were experiencing, just as He always understands us. His eyes are always on us, watching us. No matter what we do or where we go, we can never be far from God's watch (Ps. 139). God cares so much for us, His people. He is interested in each one of us.
- D. **Jesus took an active part in saving them.** He came to them, walking on the sea (Mt. 14:25). Jesus could have been walking alongside the boat watching them, but when He sensed their

distress, He immediately went to them to comfort them. He used the waves to approach them to show them who He is. In Mt. 14: 27, He said, “It is I, do not be afraid.” God promised, “Never will I leave you nor forsake you” (Heb. 13: 5-6). He is the God of miracles, and for Him, nothing is impossible.

- E. **Peter got out of the boat and walked towards Jesus.** Peter was often criticized for his lack of faith when he sank. Yet, when Jesus said “Come” only Peter got out of the boat to approach Jesus. Peter made a step of faith. Christians nowadays are afraid to “get out of the boat” to answer the Lord's call. We, too, have been called by the Lord. Psalm 95 tells us, “If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.” We need to listen and obey. In John 15: 16, Jesus said, “It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you...” We need to take the leap of faith and go out of our comfort zone, just like Peter. These tests of faith will build our character and strengthen our faith.
- F. **We need to be like the wise builder who built his house on the rock.** Listening and obeying God's word will enable us to overcome the storms in our life. Practicing obedience becomes the solid foundation to weather the storms in life (Mt. 7: 24-26).

CONCLUSION: We all have special tasks. Jesus has given us the great commission to go into the world and preach the good news to all creation. This is not a request, but a command from our Lord. We need to be His witnesses and His true disciples.

REFLECTION: Would you rather be obedient to God and face the risk of “sinking”? Or would you just stay in your comfort zone, even if Jesus has already called you? Are you ready to answer His call?

SCRIBES Ministry:

Transcribed by: Te Florentino

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