



A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- The Feeding of the 5,000 sets the background for today's sermon.
- There are several miracles in our lesson for today:

- **# 1** The miracle of Jesus walking on the water,
- **# 2** The miracle of Peter walking on the water,
- **# 3** The miracle of Jesus calming the storm,
- **# 4** The miracle of the boat being instantly
on the other shore.

- The story is intriguing because it describes **the timeless human situation.**
- We are forever being caught **in unanticipated storms,**
 - Threatened when **we least expect it.**

- Finding ourselves in the midst of death and danger, and always in need of a Savior.
- Our fondest hope is that Jesus will do for us what he did for Peter, grip us and hold us firmly when the flood waters encircle us.

- After the feeding of the multitude

Jesus sent his disciples away.

- Matthew says that he **compelled** them to embark on the boat and go on ahead.

- At first sight the word **compelled** sounds strange.

- John tells us that after the feeding of the multitude, the crowd wished to come and to make him a king by force (John 6:15).

- It was a dangerous situation, and the disciples might well have complicated it, for they, too, were still thinking of Jesus in terms of earthly power.

- When he was alone,
he went up into
a mountain to pray;
and by this time
the night had come.
 - The disciples
had set out back
across the lake.

- One of the sudden storms, for which the lake was notorious, had come upon them, and they were struggling against the winds and the waves, and making little progress.

- As the night wore on, **Jesus began to walk** round the head of the lake to reach the other side.
 - In the hour of **the disciples' need** Jesus came to them.

- When the wind was contrary and life was a struggle, Jesus was there to help.

- No sooner had a need arisen, than Jesus was there to help and to save.

- In life the wind is often contrary.
- There are times when we are up against it and life is a desperate struggle with ourselves, with our circumstances, with our temptations, with our sorrows, with our decisions.

- At such a time
no one needs to
struggle alone,
- For Jesus is there
in the storms of life.
- His hands outstretched
bidding us to take heart
and have no fear.

- **Sören Kierkegaard**,
the Danish theologian,
once warned
his contemporaries
about letting Jesus Christ
get too close to them:

- If you give him a finger,
he'll take your hand;
- give him your hand
and he'll take your arm;
- give him your arm,
and he'll take your whole life
and transform it...

- In our story we find the disciples **in the middle of a storm.**
 - Matthew states that they were in the “**middle of the sea.**”
(About 3-3.5 miles from shore).
 - (**Matthew 14:24**)
 - Life has a way of putting us **in the middle.**

- Everything was against them
- The Scripture says, The wind was contrary.
- Often it seems that everything is going against us.
- The winds of life blow against us.

- It was the **Darkest of hours.**
- The disciples **did not know** which way to go.
- The "**4th watch**" was the last watch of the night.
- It was **dark** and **dangerous.**

- The disciples had a **3-D** problem:

- **# 1 Distance**
from the shore,

- **# 2 Direction**
of the wind,

- **# 3 Darkness**
of the night.

- Matthew's account provides numerous lessons:
- **# 1 God's Provision in the Storm**
(Matthew 14:22-27)

- Matthew's account
- provides numerous lessons:
 - **# 2 God is never surprised by our storms**
(Matthew 14:22-23)

- Matthew's account provides numerous lessons:

- **# 3 In the storms of life Christ is revealed to us.**
(Matthew 14:26-27)

- Verse 27
literally says,
"take courage, I am.
Don't be afraid."
- Jesus used the name of God,
the name "I am."
 - This is the name for
the great self existent God,
it is a very holy name!
 - This name is
a declaration of Deity

- **It is I;**
be not afraid.
- Nothing but this voice of Christ could, in such circumstances, have given
courage
and
comfort
to his disciples.

- Jesus was saying,
“I am in charge here.”
- We need to see him
as the Christ
in the midst of
our storm
who is in charge.
 - This name is
a proclamation
of His presence.

- Not I was,
not I am going to be,
but I am.
- He is just as real,
just as near,
just as dear,
just as precious,
and just as present today
as He was then.
- He is with you right now,
He is the eternal
"I am."

- This name is an announcement of abundance

- "I am" is an unfinished sentence.

- Jesus says, "I am" and we can fill in the blank.

- He is all we need.

- Paul understood this truth when he wrote in
 - Philippians 4:19
**And my God shall supply
all your need
according to His riches
in glory by Christ Jesus.**

- Despite centuries of attacks,
- Attempts to write him off as a fraud
- Or the figment of the imagination of the Early Church,
 - Jesus Christ continues to reach out and grab hands, arms, and hearts.

- More than two thousand years after his birth, Jesus Christ remains the most significant force in our world.

- For the disciples
in our lesson
it had been a remarkable day.
- The disciples had
witnessed a miracle.
- Thousands of famished people
were fed with
a few loaves and fishes.
- The disciples were excited
as they gathered up
twelve baskets of excess food.

- But suddenly everything changed.
- Life has a way of doing that.
- One moment great joy.
- The next utter terror.

- The disciples **cried out in fear.**

- They were now drowning in a sea of **doubt** and **fear.**

- **Suddenly**

Jesus appeared
in a supernatural way,
walking on the water.

- From that moment
everything changed.

- We may feel alone.
- We may be confused.
 - We may sense that we are in deep water and the waves are encircling us.

- But we have Our Lord's promise that we shall never be abandoned.

- The Christ of faith reaches out to us, as He did for Peter, in our uncertainty to uphold us with his victorious right hand.

- **We may wish**
it were not so,
but through the years
I have learned
that we experience
the greatest sense
of God's presence
in the challenging,
threatening moments
in our lives.

- In times of great fear and uncertainty.
- The time of death.
- The night before surgery.
- A life-altering crisis.

- These are the moments that cut through the insignificant and help us to clarify what is truly important.
 - It is at this time that most people are more open to prayer than at any other time.

- The disciples **seem pathetic** as the storm arises on the Galilean Sea.
- They do come off, as Jesus observes, **as a people of little faith.**
 - **Most of us** are not very different from the disciples.

- For the most part,
we live steady,
predictable lives.
- We are good citizens
and neighbors.
- But if we are not careful
we can assume
that the good life
is our accomplishment
and we do not
really need God.

- What do we learn

from our friends
in this
raging storm?

- **We learn that we must:**

- **Look to Jesus**

when the storm is upon us.

(**Matthew 14:26**)

- Like the disciples they saw that **what threatened to be over their head** was already **under** His feet!

- **Ephesians 1:22**

And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

- **We learn that:**

- We must spend time with God in **prayer** and **reading** His word **until we see what they saw**

- We must **listen to Jesus** while the storm rages. (**Matthew 14:27-29**)

• **We learn that:**

• Jesus will

comfort us.

(**Matthew 14:27**)

- **We learn that:**
 - Jesus will **challenge us.**
(**Matthew 14:28-29**)

- **We learn that:**
- We must **obey** Jesus **in spite of the storm.**
(**Matthew 14:29**)
- When Peter walked on the water, **he was really walking**
on the Word.
- He believed God **and acted on it.**

- **We learn that:**
- The word of God,
is to be believed.
 - We like the
safety of the boat.
 - So we
sit and **watch**
the Lord pass us by.

- **We learn that:**
 - We must walk with Jesus **throughout the storm.**
(**Matthew 14:30**)
 - Simon Peter **did not drown**
and
neither will you.

- **We learn that:**
- Simon may not have walked very far **but he walked further** than the rest of the disciples.
- It is **safer** to be on the waves with Jesus than **in** the boat without Him!

- **We learn that:**

- Simon faltered because **he looked at his circumstance** and not his savior.

- We are commanded to keep our **eyes of faith** **firmly fixed on Jesus.**

- **We learn:**
- Jesus will **not** let you drown.
 - **Colossians 2:6**
**As you have therefore
received Christ Jesus
the Lord,
so walk in Him,**

• We learn that:

• We must worship Jesus
after the storm
(Matthew 14:31-33)

- Why did Jesus
walk on the water?
- So the disciples would know
He was sufficient
for their needs.
 - It brought the reality that:
"truly you are the Son of God."
(Matthew 14:33)

- **We learn that:**
- Not only is Jesus necessary,
He is enough!
- Whoever you are,
He is enough.
- **Colossians 2:10**
”**And you are**
complete **in Him**”

- To the artist

He is altogether lovely.

- To the architect

He is the chief cornerstone.

- To the banker

He is the hidden treasure.

- To the baker

He is the living bread.

- To the **biologist**

He is the life.

- To the **builder**

He is the sure foundation.

- To the **doctor**

He is the great physician.

- To the **educator**

He is the great teacher.

- To the **farmer**
He is the Lord of the harvest.
- To the **florist**
He is the Rose of Sharon.
- To the **geologist**
He is the rock of ages.
- To the **jurist**
He is the righteous judge.
- To the **jeweler**
He is the pearl of great price.

- To the lawyer

He is my advocate.

- To the publisher

He is the good tidings of great joy.

- To the philosopher

He is the wisdom of God.

- To the preacher

He is the word of God.

- To the **sculptor**

He is the living stone.

- To the **statesman**

He is the desire of all nations.

- To the **theologian**

He is the author and finisher
of our faith.

- To the **traveler**

He is the new and living way.

- To the sinner
He is the Lamb of God
that takes away
the sin of the world.

- To the saint
He is the
son of the living God.

- He is the
Great I am!

- **Matthew 14:27**

Jesus spoke to them,

saying,

Be comforted!

I AM!

Do not fear.

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



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