

Sermon Series: TRANSFORMATION

Sermon: “Help Lord!”

Text: Matthew 14:22-33

Introduction: The focus of this sermon and study is on our need of continuous rescue by Jesus from a variety of ways of thinking and acting. An opening question: Do you find it difficult to identify or admit the ways you need rescued by Jesus? Why or why not?

Reflect on the sermon: Did you gain any new insights on this familiar story? Throughout church history, this story has often been seen as a striking visual display (a tableau) of the relationship between Christ and His church – how so?

Examination: Which of the following ways of thinking/acting do you most identify with as something you need rescued (freed) from by Jesus?

- From the belief that I know what’s best for myself
- From thinking that I can be spiritually healthy w/o times of aloneness with the Lord
- From my impatience and demanding spirit – not trusting God’s timing
- From thinking that I’m alone in the midst of the storm
- From common sense living and loving
- From thinking that I won’t sink
- From being comfortable as a spectator in the Christian life

Vs. 22: Can you identify a specific way the Lord has “*made*” you ‘get in the boat’? Have you resisted this? What are the costs/benefits of obedience to the authority of Jesus?

vs. 23: How important in your walk with Jesus is *silence/solitude/aloneness* with Him (be honest)? Why is this often so hard? What are some benefits of this?

Vs. 24: Have you ever had an experience like the disciples where you feel you obeyed the Lord and then were thrust into a storm and He wasn’t present? What does it mean to “wait for the Lord”? (See *Psalm 130:5, 6*)

Vs. 25-27: How much does fear impact our walk with Jesus? How does Jesus speak to our fears in vs. 27? The words “I am” are in the *exact middle* of our text. What is the significance of this?

Vs. 28-31: Two truths: 1) disciples can believe and do great things; and, 2) disciples cannot sustain faith by themselves, sooner or later we will disbelieve and sink – needing to be rescued. What do we learn about Peter here? What do we learn about Jesus? When did Peter begin to sink (vs. 30) – is this true in your life too? Does Jesus invite us to come knowing we will sink?

Application: In groups of 3 answer these questions:

1. Can you identify one way you need rescued from being a spectator?
2. How (or where) is Jesus calling you to step out of the boat?
3. End by praying for each other.