

A Simple Sermon About Sinking Souls

Introduction: Matthew 14:22-33

1. This section of Matthew tells us about the time that Peter began to sink in the sea.
2. In it, there are a number of lessons that should help us when we begin to sink in sin.
3. We even sing about "*sinking deep in sin*" and this song evidently came from this section of Matthew.
4. In this study we will notice:
 - a. The STORM.
 - b. The SAVIOR.
 - c. The SINKING.
5. We will look at the storm, the Savior, and the sinking, just to see if we can get you thinking.

I. THE STORM (Matt. 14:22-25a).

In thinking about the storm, I want us to notice the:

A. Problem of the storm.

1. The disciples were facing a real problem. They were in a troubled sea.
2. There was a problem of distance – they were in the "*midst of the sea.*"
3. There was the problem of danger – the boat was "*tossed with the waves.*"
4. There was the problem of darkness – it was during the "*fourth watch of the night.*"
5. They were in the middle of the problem and they could not see any way out.

B. People in the storm.

1. We expect wicked and sinful people to be troubled and have problems and, of course, they do (Prov. 13:15; Isa. 57:20-21).
2. But these people were "*His disciples*" (v. 22). They were people who were following Jesus and yet here they were in the midst of a real problem.

C. Principle of the storm.

1. The principle taught here is that even disciples of Christ will sometimes find themselves in the midst of trouble and surrounded by problems.
2. Even God's greatest servants were not exempt from troubles and trials (Job. 3:26; 14:1; Dan. 6; II Cor. 4:8).
3. The Bible clearly teaches that as long as Christians are in the world they will have tribulation and problems (John 16:33; II Tim. 3:12).
4. Many times today we Christians find ourselves in a stormy sea of problems, when the winds of trouble toss us to and fro, and the situation looks dreadful, dark and dreary. You see, God did not promise us smooth sailing in this life. He does promise us a safe landing. And He does promise to help us get through the troubles (Heb. 13:5-6).
5. Remember, we can't send some religious racketeer some money and expect all our problems to cease.
6. Our problems may come from our flesh, family, friends, foes, finances, or some

other area. But at times problems are real and problems are rough and we find that living can get pretty tough.

II. THE SAVIOR (Matt. 14:25b-27).

The second thing I want us to concentrate on is the Savior. In thinking about the Savior, I want us to notice:

A. His perception.

1. Mark's account tells us that, "*He saw them toiling in rowing*" (Mark 6:48). He knew of the difficulty they were in and how they were struggling to survive.
2. He also knows about our problems and troubles. When He had John to write to the church in Smyrna, He said, "*I know thy works and tribulation...*" (Rev. 2:9). He knew the problems they were having and He knows about the ones we have.
3. As the song says, "*My Jesus knows just what I need.*" All things are naked and open unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do (Heb. 4:13). As the poet says:
He knows each winding way I take
and every sorrow, pain, and ache.
And me He never will forsake.

B. His presence.

1. The text says "*Jesus went unto them...*" (v. 25b).
2. He came to them in the midst of their troubles. He was there when they really needed Him and even though they did not recognize Him, He was there!
3. He promises us that He will be present when we have problems. He not only

knows when His disciples are having problems, He also goes to them when they have them (Matt. 28:20; Phil. 4:5; Heb. 13:5).

4. What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear...

C. His power.

1. The text says that He went to them "*walking on the sea*" (v. 25c). He was already on top of their problems. The problem that seemed to be over their heads was under His feet!
2. When it comes to our problems today we need to realize that Jesus has the power to solve them. Even if we can't see any way out, that does not mean that He can't.
3. The Bible says that God is "*able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think according to the power that worketh in us*" (Eph. 3:20).
4. We need to learn to look and lean on the Lord (Heb. 12:1-2; I John 4:4; Phil. 4:13).
As one man said:

Yesterday God helped me.
Today He'll do the same.
How long will this continue?
Forever, Praise His name.

III. THE SINKING (Matt. 14:28-33).

The final thing I want to notice is the sinking of Peter. This section closes with Peter "*beginning to sink*" and crying "*Lord, save me.*" Let's notice:

A. The wish.

1. According to verse 28, Peter wanted to

walk on the sea and he asked permission to do so.

2. Exactly why he wanted to walk on the water is not known, but the Lord granted his wish and told him to come.

B. The walk.

1. The text says, *“When Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus”* (v. 29).
2. At this point Peter was listening to and looking to the Lord. He was walking by faith (II Cor. 5:7).
3. Bear in mind that Peter was trying to do what the Lord said when he began to sink. The Lord had told him to *“come”* and Peter stepped out on faith.

C. The wind.

1. In verse 30 the Bible says, *“But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried saying, Lord, save me.”*
2. He took his eyes off the Lord and started looking at the wind. Please note that it was when he started concentrating on the problem rather than on the Savior that he began to sink. This caused him to doubt and be afraid.
3. Many times today Christians begin to sink because they are surrounded by problems and pressures in life, and they start concentrating on them rather than on being faithful to the Lord. They fail to keep *“looking unto Jesus, the author and*

finisher of our faith..." (Heb. 12:2).

4. May the Lord help us not to let the winds of adversity and the sea of trouble, that we sometimes find ourselves in, cause us to take our eyes off Jesus and sink back into sin.

CONCLUSION:

In this study we have considered "*A Simple Sermon About Sinking Souls*" (Matt. 14:22-33). We have discussed the **Storm**, the **Savior**, and the **Sinking** and hopefully learned some things that will help us avoid letting problems and pressures in this life cause us to fall.