Sacred Delights

Rescue from the Prison of Pride

Sunday, May 26, 2024

Matthew 14: 22-31 NLT

22 Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the
boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people
home. 23 After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to
pray. Night fell while he was there alone. 24 Meanwhile, the disciples were
in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were
fighting heavy waves. 25 About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came
toward them, walking on the water. 26 When the disciples saw him walking
on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a
ghost!"

27 But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take
courage. I am here!" 28 Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you,
tell me to come to you, walking on the water." 29 "Yes, come," Jesus said.

So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward
Jesus. 30 But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified
and began to sink. *"Save me, Lord!"* he shouted. 31 Jesus immediately
reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why
did you doubt me?"

1. **Blessed Are Those Who Mourn-For They Will be Comforted.**

2. **Blessed Are the Meek-For They Will Inherit the Earth.**

Conclusion: Blessed are those who mourn over their sinful state and call upon the name of Jesus, for they receive His comfort. Blessed are the meek who revere Christ as their Lord, for they will inherit the earth.

"No longer shall the earth and its fears dominate us, for we follow the one who dominates the earth."

LIFE GROUP LESSON

Rescue from the Prison of Pride

Week of May 26 – June 1, 2024

Ice Breaker: How do we imprison ourselves when we refuse help?

Read Matthew 14: 22-31.

1. What did Jesus command His disciples to do? (v.22)
2. What was Jesus positioning them for?
3. What happened to the disciples while in the boat? (v.24)
4. What was their fear in that fierce storm?
5. How long were they struggling with the storm? (v.25) Why?
6. How does Jesus come to them? (v.25)
7. How did they react? (v.26)
8. How does Jesus respond to their fear? What does He tell them? (v.27)
9. Where do we find courage?
10. What does Peter ask of Jesus amid this storm? (v.28)
11. How do you think Peter might be looking at Jesus in this time of panic and fear for their lives? What did he notice about where Jesus was in reference to the water and where the boat was heading?
12. What does Jesus tell Peter to do? (v.29) Why?
13. What gave Peter the ability to walk on the water towards Jesus? What caused him to sink? (v.30)
14. What did the expert fisherman shout? (v.30) What was the condition of Peter's heart in this moment?
15. How did Jesus respond? (v.31)
16. What did Jesus say to Peter? (v.31) Was He condemning Peter or calling him to greater faith and courage?
17. Read Isaiah 61: 1-3. Why did Jesus come? How does this truth relate to the Beatitudes Jesus taught?
18. Read Proverbs 16:18. What is the path for the prideful? Why is pride considered a prison we place ourselves in?
19. Read Matthew 11: 28-30. What does Jesus offer and promise? Who are the ones to receive this invitation?
20. Read 2 Timothy 1:7. What are we given by the Spirit?
21. What does meekness have to do with our inheritance? What does Christ have victory over? If we are in Christ, what do we have victory over? How do we apply that victory in our lives?

Point to ponder: The first beatitudes pass us through the fire of purification; the third places us in the hands of our Lord for renewal through His strength. Renewal brings freedom and courage.