



Sermon Notes: “Why Did You Doubt Me”

Matthew 14:22-36

9.27.26

THE SIGNS

- Walking on water is a miracle and a sign of Jesus’s authority over the impossible. Only God can walk on water
- Jesus's word makes the impossible possible for the person who steps out on it in faith.
- What has your eyes, what has your mind, can compete with your faith.

DISTRACTIONS – “Why did you doubt Me?”

- The wind and waves are real.
- We doubt because we can’t see in the darkness and our imaginations run wild.
- We doubt because we start to believe “I got this”.
 - We sink at the point of our distraction.

THE SURRENDER

- Surrender your distractions — the fear, the storm, and the “I got this” — surrender happens when we seek Jesus to save us.
- When we surrender our distractions and seek Jesus, the saving begins.

So What?

What does surrender make possible?

- Surrendered distractions make it possible to see and worship God for who He really is.
- Surrendered distractions get you to the shore where the ministry is waiting.

Will the storms of life sink you, or drive you to your knees?

For Study, Reflection, Discussion During the Week:

Life Group ICEBREAKER: The sermon opened with a story about Trevor's sailboat ride when he was 10. He talked about getting scared and then about a panicked swim to the one thing that could save him. He imagined a shark was chasing him and he reacted. He got distracted by imaginary things. Have you ever had a situation where you were scared or under such distress that you panicked? How did you react? What happened?

REVIEW: Review the sermon notes from Sunday. Was there a particular point that stuck with you? What was it and why did it resonate with you?

READ: Matthew 14:22-23

- Matthew 14:22-23 tells us that Jesus insisted that his disciples cross the lake. Trevor said in his sermon that Jesus must have had his reasons. He also said that maybe the disciples knew the reasons, maybe they didn't, but they went ahead and went where Jesus sent them. Have you ever felt "sent" by Jesus? Can you talk about a time when you went where you thought Jesus was sending you and you weren't exactly sure what Jesus reasons were. Was there ever a time when you felt led by Jesus and you really knew what He wanted you to do and why?

READ: Matthew 14:27

- Matthew 14: 27 shows how Jesus "at once" speaks to the disciples to encourage them. He says three things. "Don't be afraid", "Take courage" and "I am here". Trevor talked about the implications of the "I am here" statement (I AM), but what about the other two statements? What is the difference between saying "Don't be afraid" and "Take courage"? What are the things that are involved in not being afraid? What kind of things are involved in taking courage? Are they different? Jesus is very intentional in everything he says. Are there any deeper aspects to these statements as they relate to the disciples? What will their futures entail and how would an experience like this help to prepare them for what's ahead? What about us? How can we be encouraged from Jesus ancient words?

READ: Proverbs 3:6-7 | Ephesians 6:10-20 | Jeremiah 29

- Trevor said that God knows things we don't know and that we can trust God because he sees what we can't see. Why should we trust God just because he is omniscient? (All knowing) Have you found it difficult to trust God when so many distractions are causing you to doubt? Can you describe some of the distractions that have made it difficult to trust God? Can you think of biblical strategies that you can use when you are distracted that will help you get your eyes back on Jesus?

READ John 14

- In John 14 Jesus says, "no one comes to the Father except through me". Trevor compares Jesus to the ladder in his sailboat story. Jesus, like the ladder, represents the only way to safety and relief. Can you think of a situation where you needed "saving"? Can you describe how you were able to "make it" to the safety? How can we as believers, explain to someone that Jesus is the only way? How can we do this in a way that is loving and truthful?

DEPLOY:

Take an Inventory: Spend some time this week thinking about your life like a pie chart. How much time are you spending on work, family, God, leisure, etc. Be honest about the things in your life that get the attention of your eyes and your mind. Evaluate how much those things compete with your faith. Evaluate your "God" time and work to better balance the biblical disciplines of bible reading, prayer, and fellowship with believers.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, we love you and we want to honor you. Thank you for your holy word that is revealed to us in the bible. Thank you for sending Jesus so we can know you more by knowing more about him. We desire to do a better job of keeping our eyes on you. Thank you for the promise of being with us always. We know that we are distracted and so we will try to surrender those distractions as we pick up our cross daily and devote ourselves to keeping you the Lord of each day. Help us remember to stay on mission and thank you for the power of the Holy Spirit that you have given us. Only by your power can we really overcome our tendencies and temptations. Help us overcome the "I got this" mentality that is such a part of our nature so that we can instead lean on your power in our weakness so that you may have the glory, and none can boast. Amen