

Sermon Study Guide – August 13th, 2023

Today's Focus: "Don't Put Faith in Faith"

1) Thoughts to get you started...

- ◆ What does it mean to have faith? How do different people define faith differently? What does your faith mean to you?
- ◆ What does it mean to “put faith in faith”? How could it be the kind of bad thing that God would warn us against?

2) Today's Message: Matthew 14:22-33

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountain-side by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. ²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear. ²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” ²⁸ “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹ “Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” ³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?” ³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

3) What does God want you to hear today?

Throughout the sermon, consider...

How does today's sermon show you your sin? (i.e. What's the law?)

How does today's sermon show your Savior? (i.e. What's the gospel?)

Law:

Gospel:

Answer the following questions if it helps you follow the sermon...

1. Why is *faith* one of the single-most important things to define?
2. Describe the “ups and downs” that Peter & the other disciples faced that evening?
3. How would you define Peter’s faith at the start of our sermon text, and what made it limited?
4. How did Peter (inadvertently) help us discover God’s definition of faith by the end of our sermon text?
5. If faith is only as strong as its object... how will faith in yourself versus faith in Christ change how you can deal with life’s storms?
6. How should we explain our faith to others?

4) Taking it Home:

Read these sections of the Bible to reinforce this week’s truths:

Monday: *review* 1 Kg 19:9-18, Ro 8:28-39 **Thursday:** Hebrews 11

Tuesday: 1 Samuel 17

Friday: Romans 14

Wednesday: Daniel 3

Saturday: *read/review* Matthew 14