

Monday, March 23rd Bible Study Notes
Cedarville United Presbyterian Church Facebook Live
Matthew 14:22-33

Where are we in Matthew?

- Herod killed John the Baptist – Jesus withdrew privately
- Large crowds followed him
- Jesus fed several thousand people (5000 men + women and children)

Jesus prayed

- Jesus sent disciples ahead
- Prayed by himself on mountainside – stayed connected with the Father
- *Question To Ponder: How are you staying connected with God during this uncertain time?*

Storms of Correction vs. Storms of Perfection

- Jonah = storm of correction (disobeyed God and ran away)
- Disciples = storm of perfection (revealing power of God)
- Obedience to God does not give us a life of sunshine and roses – but we always have His presence (Psalm 23 – even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you are with me)

“It is a ghost!”

- Fear got the best of the disciples = jumped to false conclusion
- *Questions to Ponder: How has fear gotten the best of us as a society right now? Has fear gotten the best of you? In what way?*

Peter’s faith and doubt

- Peter gets a bad rap for doubting – he IS the only one who got out of the boat
- Peter took his eyes off Jesus (solution) and focused on the wind (problem)

- Peter realized he was in trouble as he was beginning to sink, not once he was drowning (compare this to King David who only realized/repented once the prophet Nathan confronted him – see 2 Samuel 11-12)
- *Question to Ponder: How long does it take you to realize you are sinning against God? Are you already drowning or can you catch yourself when you are beginning to sink? What can you do to see your sin earlier?*

“Jesus reached out his hand and caught him”

- As soon as Peter cried out, Jesus reached out
- Doubt = in this translation, “standing uncertainly at two ways”
- Peter struggled because he saw two ways instead of the way of Christ only
- *Question to Ponder: What do you think of the phrase, ‘Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him’? Does this bring comfort to you in the midst of these uncertain times?*

“Truly you are the Son of God.”

- There was no doubt who Jesus was
- Matthew 8:23-27, the disciples asked, “What kind of man is this?”
- In today’s passage, they worshipped him and said, “Truly you are the son of God.”
- *Question to Ponder: Do you ever have a view of God that is way too small? During this pandemic, are you trapped in fear or can you see that God is bigger than even this?*

Resources I Used:

- The Reformation Study Bible
- The NIV Life Application Study Bible
- The Wiersbe Bible Commentary