

September 4, 2016
Matthew 14:22-33

THE DISCIPLES OLYMPICS: STRETCHING YOUR FAITH

I. Introduction:

A. What is Faith?

- “Now **faith** is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” Hebrews 11:1
- “And without **faith** it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” Hebrews 11:6
- “For we walk by **faith** and not by sight.” 2 Corinthians 5:7
- “But my righteous one will live by **faith**. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back.” Hebrews 10:38

II. Lessons on Faith from Peter: Matthew 14:22-33

- a. Faith makes us want to be _____
like Jesus.

“Lord, if it’s you, Peter replied, tell me to come to you on the water.” Matthew 14:28

(Romans 8:29; Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 3:10)

- b. Faith makes us willing to _____ to Jesus

“Come,” he said Matthew 14:29

- c. Faith makes us willing to leave our _____
_____ behind.

“Then Peter got down out of the boat,” Matthew 14:29

c. Faith helps us overcome our _____

“But when he saw the wind, he was afraid.”

Matthew 14:29

d. Faith makes us willing to _____
out to Jesus.

“Beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me.!”

Matthew 14:29

III. Conclusion/Application:

- What is the boat God is calling you from?
- What is your boat of complacency?
- What habit of life, what lifestyle have you become comfortable in?

*If the Lord delights in a man's way,
He makes his steps firm;
Though he stumble he will not fall,
For the Lord upholds him with His hand.*
(Psalm 37:23-24)

“Blessed is he who Trusts in the Lord.”

Proverbs 16:20

POINTS TO PONDER
THE DISCIPLES OLYMPICS: STRETCHING YOUR FAITH
Week of September 4th to 10th
Matthew 14:22-36

Open It

1. *What is the most frightening experience you've ever had?

2. What is the most worshipful experience you have ever had?
3. Of all of Christ's miracles, which one would you most like to have witnessed? Why?

Explore It

4. After feeding the crowd of five thousand people, what instructions did Jesus give His disciples? (14:22)
5. Where did Jesus go after He dismissed the crowd? Why? (14:23)
6. What did Jesus do on the mountain? (14:23)
7. Where were the disciples when evening came? (14:24)
8. *What conditions were the disciples encountering? (14:24)
9. *What miracle did Christ perform? (14:25)
10. *How did the disciples react to what they saw? (14:26)
11. How did Jesus try to calm the disciples' fears? (14:27)
12. What did Peter ask Jesus to do? (14:28)
13. How did Jesus respond to Peter's request? (14:29)
14. What happened to Peter as he made his way toward Jesus? (14:29-30)
15. What did Jesus do and say when Peter got in trouble? (14:31)
16. What was the consensus reaction to this amazing sequence of events? (14:33)

17. What happened when Jesus and His disciples arrived at their destination? (14:35-36)

Get It

18. Why do you think Jesus spent time alone praying?

19. How is your devotional life right now?

20. What causes you to doubt and waver in your faith?

21. *What situations cause you the most fear in life?

22. How would you rate your faith on a scale from one to five (one being weak, five being strong)? Why?

23. What events or experiences have led you to trust in Jesus?

24. *What does this passage teach you to do?

Apply It

25. What specific step could you take this week to improve your devotional life?

26. *In what practical way can you demonstrate faith as you go through the coming week?

27. What step of trust do you need to take today?

28. What will help you remember to keep your eyes on Jesus and off your fears?