

“LORD, TAKE ME DEEPER”

Scripture used: [Matthew 14:25-30 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

In our Scripture today, Jesus is reacting to the killing of his cousin John The Baptist, moves to a deserted place, and miraculously feeds the multitude. Later, Jesus sends the disciples ahead, and Peter and the disciples experience a violent storm on the Sea of Galilee and see Jesus walking on the water toward them. The point here is that obedience to God does not exempt us from storms in life, and even in the midst of storms, and perhaps especially in the midst of storms, we can trust Him. Walking with God is full of wonder and brings us power in our own life, and in others' lives. We can relish the miracles in the Bible, and we ought to yearn for miracles in our own lives. This is why we should not be content with safe prayers - we must also pray dangerous prayers.

KEY POINTS

- 1) We must seek intimacy with God – getting closer to Him, knowing Him better, and loving Him more. Our dangerous prayer today is, “Take me deeper!” We must strive to build more intimacy and capacity in our relationship with God – a greater spiritual depth and power. Intimacy with God is an internal resource infinitely more impactful than physical, human, or financial resources.
- 2) [Matthew 14:22](#) – Jesus and the disciples cross to the other side of the lake. Jesus goes into the wilderness and gets in touch with the Father. The Disciples are fighting a chaotic storm and heavy waves. They are being prepared to experience the miraculous power of God. They will learn to lean in to Jesus, and that faithfulness and obedience sometimes leads to storms - following Jesus is about far more than just seeking safety at all costs.
- 3) [Corrie ten Boom](#) was a Christian woman in The Netherlands during World War II. She and her family helped many Jews escape the Nazis during the Holocaust, and also experienced great loss and sacrifice in the process. Her constant message was of forgiveness, hope, love, and salvation through the saving grace of Jesus Christ. “There is no pit so deep that He [God] is not deeper still.”
- 4) Don't give in to fear, but rather take courage. Jesus says “I am here.” We should remember this as we face the storm of life, whether in marriage, family, health, or finances. We will grapple with uncertainty, i.e., an “I don't see God ” illusion. During COVID, first responders reminded us of goodness in the world. The horrendous Champlain Towers collapse in Surfside, Florida, had us witness heroic rescue efforts. The widespread hunger in the US is matched by benevolent and tireless food banks volunteers. How badly do we want God to be at work in our lives?
- 5) Walking on water is about greater capacity and power. It's not about a new skill. It's about something more powerful than this. There will be more storms. We should not ask God to reduce the storms to match our weakness. We should ask God to increase our strength so we can stand up to the storms. Jesus has the strength to face the crucifixion. He has faith, depth, and trust in the power of God. He listens, obeys, surrenders. He executes God's redemptive plan.
- 6) In Matthew 14:29-30, Peter is fearing the storm. He is focusing on the storm, not on Jesus. Corrie ten Boom: “If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look at yourself, you'll be depressed. If you look at God, you'll be at rest.” Concentrate on following God. Peter at least has a little bit of faith, even if lots of doubt. It's a basis to have his prayers ultimately answered. And Peter became the rock of the faith – standing strong in a broken world.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - What is the relationship you've had in your life that has had the most intimacy and the most trust? How did this relationship reach this level of intimacy? Does it give you insight into deepening your relationship with God?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Consider [Matthew 14:25-30 \(NLT\)](#). How do we usually respond when storms in life come? How do storms typically affect our relationship with God? What do we learn from this message and this passage about how to more deeply trust God in the midst of storms?
- 3) **DO** - Pray, “Take me deeper” this week. Ask God for one concrete next step you can take to go deeper in your relationship with Him. Join us next week in Redwood City, San Jose, or online!