**When Jesus is With Us**

Matthew 14:22-36

**Intro:** It’s summertime - kids are going to camp - sitting around campfires - and telling ghost stories!

Here’s a story that Jesus closest followers originally thought was a ghost story - but it wasn’t - it was the real thing!

After Jesus fed five thousand …

Matthew 14:22-36 - Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone.

Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. About three o’clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, “It’s a ghost!”

 But Jesus spoke to them at once. “Don’t be afraid,” he said. “Take courage. I am here!”

 Then Peter called to him, “Lord, if it’s really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water.”

 “Yes, come,” Jesus said.

 So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. “Save me, Lord!” he shouted.

 Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. “You have so little faith,” Jesus said. “Why did you doubt me?”

 When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. Then the disciples worshiped him. “You really are the Son of God!” they exclaimed.

 After they had crossed the lake, they landed at Gennesaret. When the people recognized Jesus, the news of his arrival spread quickly throughout the whole area, and soon people were bringing all their sick to be healed. They begged him to let the sick touch at least the fringe of his robe, and all who touched him were healed.

This is no ghost story! This is a story of a real live Jesus being with His closest friends when they needed Him! This is a story of Jesus once again coming to the rescue of the friends that He loved when they were in trouble. This is a story of what happens when Jesus is with us!

Don’t you want Jesus to be with us? With you? What purpose would there be to our gathering without the presence of Jesus?

What purpose would there be to our lives without the presence of Jesus?

Jesus is with us!

**Big Idea:** What happens when Jesus is with us?

T.S.: This story gives us 5 answers -

**> When Jesus is with us - all fear is gone!**

Matthew 14:27 - But Jesus spoke to them at once. “Don’t be afraid,” he said. “Take courage. I am here!”

What is it that you fear?

What causes you to be afraid?

* Are you afraid of a doctor’s report - or a potential doctor’s report?
* Are you afraid a good relationship might go bad?
* Are you afraid of your finances going bad - or even worse?
* Are you just afraid? Common things?

Like this -

**Charlie Brown video -**

**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzmidvCBeoc**

**Start 25 seconds in - to 1:23 -**

I have good news!

*Because He lives I can face tomorrow*

*Because He lives all fear is gone*

We are not talking about caution -

Caution is a good thing! Caution is wisdom.

* Don’t drive 80 miles an hour through a neighborhood -
* “I’m not afraid!” I know you’re not afraid - but a little caution is called for.

When Anna was little - in Maine - cliff - Sharon - “I don’t care if you want to fall off that cliff and die, but give me back my baby before you do!”

I wasn’t afraid - but I needed to be cautious!

We are talking about paralyzing fear that keeps you from enjoying life as God planned - keeps you from moving forward in God’s plan for your life.

Fear is the opposite of faith.

If you are afraid of sickness -

1st Peter 2:24 - He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed.

Matthew 4:23 - Jesus … healed every kind of disease and illness.

Acts 5:15-16 - As a result of the apostles’ work, sick people were brought out into the streets on beds and mats so that Peter’s shadow might fall across some of them as he went by. Crowds came from the villages around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those possessed by evil spirits, and they were all healed.

James 5:14-15 - Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven.

Don’t be afraid! Don’t be afraid to come forward for prayer! Jesus still heals in response to faith!

What do you have to lose?

Are you afraid for your family?

Proverbs 22:6 - Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.

Acts 16:31 - They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household.”

Are you afraid of death?

John 11:25-26 - Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?”

2nd Corinthians 5:8 - Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord.

I know the journey can be hard - The Bible refers to the valley the shadow of death -

We’re not afraid of what’s on the other side - but sometimes we’re unsure of the process -

1st John 5:13 - I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life.

Faith replaces fear -

2nd Timothy 1:7 - For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

Love replaces fear -

1st John 4:18 - Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love.

When Jesus is with us - all fear is gone!

**> When Jesus is with us - We can do the impossible!**

Matthew 14:28-29 - Then Peter called to him, “Lord, if it’s really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water.”

 “Yes, come,” Jesus said.

 So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus.

What is it that seems impossible for you?

* Your family coming to know Jesus?
* Progress in business - peace and joy at your workplace?
* Growth in your spiritual life?
* Blessing in your finances?

When the angel Gabriel came to teenage Mary and told her she was going to give birth to the Savior or God’s people - she couldn’t understand how she was going to have a baby - she had never been with a man.

Luke 1:37 ESV - For nothing will be impossible with God.

So - a virgin had a baby!

Luke 18:27 - He replied, “What is impossible for people is possible with God.”

This story comes right after Jesus fed those 5 thousand with 5 loaves and 2 fish - Then He walks on water!

He was always doing this kind of stuff!

Matthew 17:20 - “You don’t have enough faith,” Jesus told them. “I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it would move. Nothing would be impossible.”

When Jesus is with us - all fear is gone - we can do and see the impossible!

**> When Jesus is with us - He keeps us from sinking!**

Matthew 14:30-31 - But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. “Save me, Lord!” he shouted.

Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. “You have so little faith,” Jesus said. “Why did you doubt me?”

* What enabled Peter to walk on the water? Faith.
* What caused him to start to sink? Fear.

But - Jesus was with him - so he did not sink!

Have you ever felt like you were going down for the last time?

I’ve been a lifeguard - I’ve had to jump in a few times - I’ve kept a child from sinking - a teenager at a youth camp -

My cousin’s husband jumped in and pulled Randy out …

Sometimes we feel like we are going down in every way - emotionally - spiritually - we don’t feel we can take anymore or go any farther -

But - Jesus is with us! Look away from the waves - and look to Him!

He can keep us from sinking into temptations to sin - of all kinds!

1st Corinthians 10:13 - The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

He will keep us from sinking when people or demons oppose us -

Jeremiah 1:8 - And don’t be afraid of the people, for I will be with you and will protect you. I, the Lord, have spoken!”

Even if you feel as if you have begun to sink a little bit - you are not too far down for Jesus to life you out!

Psalm 40:1-3 - I waited patiently for the Lord to help me,

and he turned to me and heard my cry.

He lifted me out of the pit of despair,

out of the mud and the mire.

He set my feet on solid ground

and steadied me as I walked along.

He has given me a new song to sing,

a hymn of praise to our God.

Many will see what he has done and be amazed.

They will put their trust in the Lord.

When Jesus is with us - He keeps us from sinking!

**> When Jesus is with us - He should be worshiped!**

Matthew 14:33 - Then the disciples worshiped him. “You really are the Son of God!” they exclaimed.

* Is He not worthy of all of our worship?
* He is present with us - said He would never leave us or forsake us - be with us to the end of the world.

He said He would speak directly with the people of Israel, but they said, “No!” - they were afraid of His direct voice -

But He has sent His Holy Spirit to live inside all of us - to speak to us - to comfort us -

And when we praise and worship Him - we become acutely aware of His presence with us -

Psalm 95:6-7 - Come, let us worship and bow down.

Let us kneel before the Lord our maker,

for he is our God.

We are the people he watches over,

the flock under his care.

Psalm 99:5 - Exalt the Lord our God!

Bow low before his feet, for he is holy!

This is why we come together … not just for 20 minutes of feel-good group singing - come to worship the Lord! …

When Jesus is with us - He should be worshiped!

**> When Jesus is with us - Miracles take place!**

Matthew 14:34-36 - After they had crossed the lake, they landed at Gennesaret. When the people recognized Jesus, the news of his arrival spread quickly throughout the whole area, and soon people were bringing all their sick to be healed. They begged him to let the sick touch at least the fringe of his robe, and all who touched him were healed.

He is the miracle worker!

He is able to do a miracle today! He is able to meet your need today!

We’re going to have prayer in a moment - If you have a need - please come -

Remember this:

When Jesus is with us

* All fear is gone
* We can do the impossible
* He keeps us from sinking
* He should be worshiped
* Miracles take place

We are going to worship again today - We are going to give Jesus an opportunity to make His presence known - and we are going to give you an opportunity to be aware of His presence and to receive from Him -

Deuteronomy 31:6 - So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the Lord your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you.

John 14:16-18 - And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you.

**Invitation -**

**Blessing -**