

WELCOME TO SOUTHLAND!

Thanks for joining us!

August 15, 2021

Matthew Pt 10. Master & Commander

Matthew 14:

³ Now Herod had arrested John and bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, ⁴ for John had been saying to him: "It is not lawful for you to have her."

⁶ On Herod's birthday the daughter of Herodias danced for the guests and pleased Herod so much ⁷ that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. ⁸ Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist." ⁹ The king was distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he ordered that her request be granted ¹⁰ and had John beheaded in the prison.

¹³ When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

²⁰ They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ²¹ The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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 mountainside 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.”

A. The Master & Commander:

1. Teaches obedience is no guarantee of being spared the storms of life.
2. Comes when He is least expected. Revelation 3:20
3. Reveals His presence and His power. Matthew 14:33
4. Requires abandonment of our fears. Matthew 14:29

B. Seeing the Wind: (vs.30)

1. It's universal: “We all stumble in many ways.” James 3:2. Romans 3:23
2. It's unnerving: Loss of focus.
3. It's unclear: Failure is not an event. Failure is the judgment about an event.

“We are hard pressed on every side but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.” 2 Cor. 4:8-9

Failure isn't failing to reach your dream. Failure is never having a dream.

Failure isn't setting a goal and falling short. Failure is never having a goal.

Failure isn't falling down; Failure is not getting back up.

C. The Upside of Being Down:

Peter knew:

1. The glory of walking on water! vs.29
2. The glory of being lifted up by Jesus when in desperate need. vs.31a
3. Faith is the remedy. vs.31b
4. The Freedom to Fail

God uses:

5. Failure to educate us.
6. Failure to develop us. Grow our character.

"We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation." Romans 5:3-4

Chuck Colson former chief advisor to President Nixon wrote this,

"One time one Easter morning as I sat in chapel at the Delaware State Prison waiting to preach, my mind drifted back in time to scholarships, honors earned, cases argued and won, great decisions made from lofty, government offices.

"My life had been the perfect success story, the great American dream fulfilled. But all at once, I realized that it was not my success that God had used to enable me to help those in prison. My life of success was not what made this morning so glorious. All of my achievements meant nothing to God's economy."

"No, the real legacy of my life was my biggest failure, and that was I was an ex-convict. My greatest humiliation, being sent to prison, was the beginning of God's greatest use of my life. He chose the one experience in which I could find no self-glory for His Glory."

Reflection: What is your boat?

Your boat is whatever represents safety and security in your life apart from God Himself. Your boat is simply whatever you want to put your trust in particularly when the going gets rough and stormy.

Your boat is whatever gives you comfort even if it gets in the way of joining Jesus. Your boat is whatever pulls you away or distracts you from your pursuit of God.

There's an easy way of finding out what your boat is. Ask yourself this: What is it that most produces fear in me – particularly if I think of stepping out of the boat in faith.

It might be your vocation, a relationship, secrecy, success etc, What is your boat? In what area of your life are you shrinking back from fully and courageously – even outrageously trusting God?

Why not do something radical right now and let go? Leave your boat behind and begin walking on water with Jesus!