RUSSELL SANDERS 2-12-2024 YOUR WALK ON THE WATER

Matthew 14:22-33 tells of Jesus' disciples in a ship on the Sea of Galilee. A storm came upon them and tossed the ship to and fro. Late into the night, they saw a figure on the water walking towards them. They were afraid, thinking it might be a ghost.

When they cried out in fear, Jesus answered them, saying, "Be of Good cheer. It is I." Peter answered, (NKJV), "Lord, if it is [really] you, command me to come to you on the water." Jesus bid him to come. Peter left the ship and commenced to walk upon the water toward Jesus.

After going part way, he looked at the circumstances (the waves). He wondered "how can this be possible?" As doubt arose, he began to sink down and flounder in the water. In fear, he cried out [vs. 30] "Lord, save me." Jesus was instantly there and caught him up out of the water. Peter then walked on the water with Jesus to the ship.

Peter's ultimate success in his assignment of walking on the water built great faith even for the other disciples who witnessed it [vs. 33]. It affirmed the divinity of Jesus to them.

There are times when men, or any of us, are given an assignment by God. We begin to perform it, but somewhere along the way there comes adversity or some very troubling circumstances. We are tempted to give up, or at least question whether it was God who gave us the assignment or whether it was just our own idea.

If we give up, we fail because of our doubt. Just like Jesus said to Peter foundering in the water in verse 33 said, "O thou of little faith, wherefore [why] didst thou doubt?"

However, if we lay aside our own misgivings and look to Jesus, who is the author[beginning] and finisher [completion] of the task, we are victorious. Other people can be encouraged by our example.

Do not let circumstances or appearances distract you. Stay the course. Stand strong. He who started the work with you shall also finish the work with you.

Keep trusting Jesus. Never give up or give in. It is your own "walk on the water" with Jesus.