

Miracles of Jesus
Power Over Nature (Matthew 14:22-33)
Faith in Jesus overcomes Fears.

Hook (?min)

***Miracle Memes**

- Jesus performed many miracles to teach important truths, to show his love and compassion for people, and to reveal signs of His identity.
- His revelation through His miracles strengthened the faith of His followers.
- They trusted in Him and His power because they knew who He was. They knew that He loved them and would protect them.
- Jesus is Lord and protector of our lives. Our faith in Him is what helps us overcome our fears. It's what gives us hope for the future – knowing that Jesus Christ will be with us through the joys and sorrows.

***Prayer**

Turn to Matthew 14:22-33

- *This is immediately after another miracle – When Jesus fed 5000 men (plus women & children) with only 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. The disciples had just witnessed a miraculous display of His power.*

Matthew 14:22-33

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. **23**After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone.

24Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. **25**About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. **26**When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!"

- The disciples were **terrified**.
- *The Sea of Galilee was known to produce sudden violent storms such as this one. As experienced fishermen, they had been through these storms, but it would still be extremely frightening.*
- *In this time, many Jewish people also feared the sea. It was referred to as an abyss and seen as a symbol of chaos and darkness – filled with evil spirits.*
- *Tired and scared, the disciples thought that Jesus might be a ghost coming up from the abyss.*

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

28 Then Peter called to him, “Lord, if it’s really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water.”²⁹ **“Yes, come,”** Jesus said.

So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. “Save me, Lord!” he shouted.

³¹ Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. **“You have so little faith,”** Jesus said. **“Why did you doubt me?”**

³² When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. ³³ Then the disciples worshiped him. **“You really are the Son of God!”** they exclaimed.

Faith over Fear (7min)

- The disciples were living through a time of fear.
 - *Will we have enough food to eat? Enough money?*
 - *Will we have a place to sleep?*
 - *What if we are arrested? Punished? Persecuted?*
- These are questions many of us are still asking today.
 - How many of you have experienced fear in your lives?
 - I'm sure you've had your share of "Will I" and "What if" questions:
 - *Will I get that job?*
 - *What if I can't pay the rent?*
 - *Will I have enough food to feed my kids?*
 - *What if I get sick or get in an accident?*
- When we get caught up in these thoughts of doubt and fear they can overtake our emotions.
- Hebrews 11:1 – Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.
- It is an absolute belief that God is constantly working in every area of our lives – even when we can't see it.
- **Our deliverance from fear and worry is based on our faith in Jesus Christ.**

Know Him (7min)

What did the disciples know about Jesus?

- ***Jesus saves us.**
 - After the disciples saw that it was Jesus walking on the water, Peter found the courage to walk on the waves himself.
 - He wanted to be like Jesus and took a huge risk in stepping out of the boat into the stormy waters.

- *I imagine the other disciples were probably thinking he was a little crazy and getting prepared to rescue him.*
- **When Peter said “if it’s really you, tell me to come to you” he wasn’t putting Jesus to the test. Instead, he was the only one in the boat to react in faith.**
- **He knew who Jesus was and knew that he would be safe with Him.**
- His faith helped him to walk on the water like Jesus.
- It wasn’t until he took his eyes off Jesus, and focused on the storms around him that he began to sink.
- Even in his doubt and fear, he still had faith that Jesus would save him. He called out “Save me Lord” and Jesus rescued him.
- **Psalm 55:18 – But I will call on God, and the Lord will rescue me.**
- ***Jesus’ presence calms the storms.**
 - There is another miracle in this passage.
 - **Verse 32 -- When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped.**
 - **Jesus presence in the boat calmed the storm.**
 - The disciples had seen Jesus calm a storm before by rebuking it, but this time all He did was get into the boat.
 - His presence in the boat and in their lives brought them peace.
 - We’ve all experienced storms in our lives, some of you might be going through them right now.
 - Sometimes storms come out of nowhere.
 - **When my youngest daughter was a baby, I was a stay-at-home mom. My older kids were at school and we were having a peaceful morning. She was in her jumper and I was cleaning up in the kitchen. Then I heard a loud banging on the front door. It was my neighbor panicking and asking for help because her husband (who had been building a deck in their yard) had fallen and cut his arm on a circular saw. As I rushed next door to help I called on the power of Jesus to sustain me. I knew I wouldn’t be able to do this on my own. Even in midst of the chaos of this emergency – on the phone with 911, seeing blood everywhere, his wife running around frantically, the man himself trying stand up while we helping him – I felt the peace of God wash over me. He brought a calmness to my mind**

in the midst of the storm. I knew that I could trust in Him no matter what happened.

- ***Jesus is the Son of God.**
 - Jesus' miracles displayed power that no one else has -- only God.
 - Psalm 89:9 – You rule the oceans. You subdue their storm-tossed waves.
 - Jesus could walk on the water and calm the waves.
 - **Jesus had power over nature.**
 - This very experience was an echo of the Psalms that they sang when they worshiped God.
 - Psalm 107:28-31 – “Lord, help!” they cried in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He calmed the storm to a whisper and stilled the waves. What a blessing was that stillness as he brought them safely into harbor! Let them praise the Lord for his great love and for the wonderful things he has done for them.
 - The Son of God was revealed to them and they worshiped and praised Him.

Faith over Fear (2min)

How can you grow faith over fear?

- First you need to understand that faith is not something that we can produce in ourselves.
- Faith is a gift (Ephesians 2:8-9), and faithfulness is described as a fruit that is produced in our lives by the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).
- Faith is a confident assurance in God who loves us, who knows our thoughts, and who cares about our deepest needs.
- The more we learn about God, the more we can see Him working in our lives and the stronger our faith grows.
- ***Call out to Him**
 - Call out to Him in prayer.
 - 1 Peter 5:7 – Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.

- Spending time in prayer develops a relationship with our heavenly Father that sees us through even the darkest of nights.
- I Thessalonians 5:17 – Never stop praying.
- Being in constant prayer means keeping our requests continually before God as we live for him day by day, believing he will answer.
- God may tell us to wait, but his delays always have good reasons.
- As we persist in prayer, we grow in faith.
 - Commit to praying every morning when you wake up or every evening before bed.
 - As you add in this rhythm of prayer it will become a natural part of your life – communion with God.
- ***Spend time with Him**
 - The Bible says in Romans 10:17 that faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. (NKJV)
 - Spend time with Him by reading His Word.
 - Our faith continues to grow as we study the Bible and learn the attributes of God's amazing character.
 - God wants us to know Him and completely rely on His direction in our lives.
 - It's through the Word of God that we begin to experience a strong, confident faith that overcomes worry and fear.
 - You can do this today.
 - Pick up a devotional and spend just 10 minutes a day getting to know God through His Word.
- ***Worship Him**
 - He is the Son of God! Worship Him for who He is, even in the storms.
 - Psalm 40:3 -- 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.
 - It's a lot easier to worship Jesus in times of joy, but even in times of sorrow, He is worthy of worship. His power transcends the trials of our earthly life.

- A few years ago my grandpa was in an accident. After a month of ups and downs in recovery he was sent back to the hospital in bad condition. The doctors told us that he would not be with us much longer. My family gathered to say our good-byes to him. It was a sad time but even in our sorrow we knew that God was welcoming him home with open arms. Yes, we cried together but we knew that Jesus was with him and still with us. In our sadness we sang worship songs – praising the Lord who walks with us through joy and trials!
- God is kind and understanding toward our weaknesses, but He requires us to go forward in faith.
- The Bible is clear that faith does not mature and strengthen without trials.
- God takes each one of us through fearful situations, and, as we learn to obey Him we find each trial becomes a stepping stone to a stronger and deeper faith.
- It gives us the ability to say, "He sustained me in the past, he'll carry me through today and he'll uphold me in the future!"
 - Find a way to worship Him every day.
 - Praise Him in song on your way to work.
 - Worship Him in silence as you watch the sunset.
 - Sing, dance, and clap as we worship together!

- **Even one small step of faith can lead you on the path toward overcoming your fears.**

***Indiana Jones clip (1:20min)**

Punch (?min)

What is the next step you will take toward growing your faith in Jesus and overcoming your fears?

- Call out to Him (Pray)
- Spend time with Him (God's Word)
- Worship Him (Worship)

***Prayer**

Benediction – Philippians 4:6-7

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.