

Jesus Is Greater Than Anything We Fear

Matthew 14:22-33

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT OF MATTHEW 14

Matthew 14 is a powerful chapter. A lot happens:

- John the Baptist is executed (vv. 1–12)
- Jesus feeds the 5,000 (vv. 13–21)
- Jesus walks on water (vv. 22–33)
- Jesus continues healing people (vv. 34–36)

This chapter shows us something important:

Fear is real. Storms are real. Loss is real. But Jesus is greater than all of it.

The disciples had just seen Jesus multiply bread and fish. But even after a miracle, they still faced a storm. That's life. You can experience God in a big way and still walk into hard days.

The walking-on-water moment teaches us this big truth:

Jesus is not absent in your fear — He walks into it.

EXPLORE THE TEXT (KEY WORDS & PHRASES)

Let's slow down and notice a few important words in Matthew 14:22–33.

1. “Immediately” (v. 22)

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat *immediately*.

- Following Jesus doesn't mean avoiding storms.
- Sometimes obedience leads you into difficulty.

2. “Alone” (v. 23)

Jesus went up on the mountain by Himself to pray.

- Even the Son of God prioritized time with the Father.
- If Jesus needed prayer time, how much more do we?

3. “Beaten by the waves” (v. 24)

The word means tormented, harassed.

- The disciples weren't mildly uncomfortable.
- They were exhausted and overwhelmed.

4. “It is I” (v. 27)

In Greek: *Ego eimi* — “I AM.”

- This echoes God's name in Exodus 3:14.
- Jesus isn't just saying, “Hey guys, it's me.”

- He's declaring, "I am God."

5. "Little faith" (v. 31)

Jesus doesn't shame Peter.
He corrects him.

- Faith isn't about never struggling.
- It's about where you look when you struggle.

6. "Truly you are the Son of God" (v. 33)

This is the first time the disciples corporately confess this.

- Fear turned into worship.

Storm → Fear → Encounter → Faith → Worship.

5-DAY DEVOTIONAL PLAN

DAY 1 – Matthew 14:22–23 - Time Alone Before the Storm

Devotional

Jesus sends the disciples into the boat knowing a storm is coming.

Think about that.

He doesn't warn them.

He doesn't stop the storm.

He sends them anyway.

And what does He do?

He prays.

Before the storm hits, Jesus is alone with the Father.

Sometimes we only pray when life falls apart. Jesus shows us the better rhythm: *Pray before, Pray during, Pray after.*

Time alone with God prepares you for storms you don't even see coming.

If you wait until anxiety hits, temptation rises, or drama explodes you're already tired. Prayer builds strength before fear shows up.

Application

- Do you have regular time alone with God?
- Or do you only pray when things get hard?

Challenge

Set aside **10 intentional minutes alone with God today.**

No phone. No music. Just you, Scripture, and prayer.

Read Psalm 46:1 and thank God that He is your refuge.

DAY 2 – Matthew 14:24–27 - Jesus Walks Into Your Fear

Devotional

The disciples are exhausted. It's the fourth watch, between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m.

Pitch black.

Wind screaming.

Water crashing.

They are terrified. Then they see something walking toward them and they assume the worst.

Isn't that what we do?

When life gets dark:

We assume disaster.

We imagine worst-case scenarios.

We panic.

But it's Jesus.

Fear often misinterprets what God is doing.

And then Jesus says:

"Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

He doesn't remove the storm immediately. He enters it.

Isaiah 43:2 says:

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you."

Not if. When.

Application

- What fear are you facing right now?
- Is it anxiety about school?
- Sports performance?
- Family issues?
- Your future?

Jesus walks into those fears.

Challenge

Write down your biggest fear right now.

Pray this:

“Jesus, I trust that You are greater than this.”

DAY 3 – Matthew 14:28–30 - Step Out — But Keep Your Eyes Up

Devotional

Peter does something wild. He asks to step out. And Jesus says one word: “Come.” Peter walks on water.

Don’t miss that. He actually walks on water.

But then...

He notices the wind.

He sees the waves.

He feels the storm.

And he sinks. What changed?

Not Jesus.

Not the storm.

Peter’s focus changed.

Faith grows when your eyes are on Jesus.

Fear grows when your eyes are on circumstances.

Hebrews 12:2 says:

“Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.”

Peter’s mistake wasn’t stepping out. It was looking away.

Application

- Where has Jesus called you to step out?
- Sharing your faith?
- Saying no to temptation?
- Trusting Him with your future?

Challenge

Take one bold step of obedience today. Even if it feels uncomfortable. Keep your eyes up.

DAY 4 – Matthew 14:31–32 - Jesus Grabs Sinking People

Devotional

Peter sinks. Jesus doesn't lecture. He reaches.

Immediately. That word again.

Jesus is quicker to save than we are to fall.

Notice this:

Peter wasn't condemned.

He was corrected.

“O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

Jesus asks questions to grow you, not shame you.

Maybe you feel like you're sinking:

- In anxiety
- In guilt
- In sin
- In pressure

Romans 8:1 says:

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

Jesus grabs sinking people.

Application

Where do you feel like you're sinking?

Challenge

Instead of hiding your struggle, bring it to Jesus in prayer. Tell Him exactly where you're doubting.

DAY 5 – Matthew 14:33 - Fear Turns Into Worship

Devotional

The storm stops and the disciples worship.

Their fear becomes faith. Their panic becomes praise.

This is the goal.

Jesus doesn't just want to calm your storm. He wants to deepen your worship.

Sometimes God allows storms because:

- You learn who He really is.
- You discover your faith is smaller than you thought.
- You see His power more clearly.

After this moment, they don't just see Jesus as a miracle worker.

They see Him as the Son of God.

Your fear can either push you away from Jesus or pull you closer.

James 1:2–4 reminds us that trials grow us.

Storms aren't proof God left. They're opportunities to know Him more.

Application

How has God shown Himself faithful in your past storms?

Challenge

Spend time worshiping today.

Listen to a worship song.

Read Psalm 34 aloud.

Thank Jesus for being greater than your fear.

FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT

You will face storms.

You will feel fear.

You will doubt.

But here's the truth:

- Jesus prays for you.
- Jesus walks toward you.
- Jesus calls you out.
- Jesus grabs you when you sink.
- Jesus deserves your worship.

He is greater than:

- Your anxiety
- Your insecurity
- Your future
- Your mistakes
- Your fear

And the same Jesus who walked on water went to the cross rose from the grave and now reigns over everything. If He defeated death, He can handle your storm.