

## **JESUS HELPED IN A STRANGE WAY**

### **Matthew 14:25**

**Introduction:** Jesus did many unexplainable things and one of them was the evening when Jesus walked from shore out to where His disciples were in a boat. Jesus walked on the water/sea. Jesus needed to get a way to be by Himself for a while, so He sent His disciples on ahead by boat. He needed to get alone with His heavenly Father so He sent the crowd away and spent some time in prayer. Jesus finally starts out to join His disciples in their boat out on the sea/water.

### **I. A STORM TEACHES THE DISCIPLES DEPENDENCE**

1. A storm breaks out which was not unusual and dark clouds, strong winds and heavy rain began to give the disciples much trouble as they were out on the water.
2. The disciples had been trying to give Jesus advice about how to handle the multitude and how to feed the vast number but now they could not handle their own boat.
3. The disciples were taught a very important lesson about Jesus - no matter the situation, Jesus could be depended upon to make things right.

### **II. THE DISCIPLES FAILED TO RECOGNIZE JESUS ON THE WATER**

1. The disciples had been out on the water in the dark, in the midst of the storm trying to keep their boat afloat.
2. As dawn approached the disciples saw something coming toward them on top of the water.
  - They had been wondering where Jesus was and wishing that He was there with them to help out.
  - They did not recognize or even suspect that the image they saw coming toward them was Jesus.
  - Sometimes we do not recognize Jesus either while in the midst of troubles.
    - We have prayed and wondered why He wasn't helping.
3. The disciples became afraid of what they were seeing, thinking that it was something evil and that they were in serious trouble.
4. Jesus called out to them, identifying Himself and telling them to not be afraid.

### **III. ONE OF THE DISCIPLES WANTED TO SEE FOR HIMSELF IF IT REALLY WAS JESUS**

1. Of all the disciples in the boat, only one had the nerve, the courage to get out onto the storm tossed sea and try to go see if it really was Jesus.
  - Peter called out to Jesus asking if he could come to Him.
  - Peter climbed out of the boat and began to make his way to Jesus but after a bit he began to sink.
    - Jesus reached out and pulled Peter back up to his feet on the water.
2. The winds died down, the darkness faded away, the rains stopped, the water/sea calmed down and the disciples got the boat to the shore, they all knelt down and worshiped Jesus.

### **IV. JESUS OFTEN DELAYS HEAVENLY THINGS**

1. The night was dark, dangerous and long for the disciples for they had rowed and dipped water out of the boat for hours barely being able to stay afloat.
  - Hour after hour of hard work and danger with no word from Jesus, had He forgotten about them?
  - Often we, too, lose heart and hope because of God's delay in helping.

2. When one of God's children has a great need, God is close by, maybe delaying, but He will be there.
  - God has His own ways of teaching His children patience and building up their hope.

## **V. JESUS OFTEN APPEARS IN UNEXPECTED WAYS**

1. The disciples were wishing that Jesus was there with them in the storm out on the sea in their little boat but never dreamed that He would come to them as He did.
  - Nobody ever thought about Jesus walking out on the water in the midst of the storm to them.
  - Yet in this totally unexpected way, Jesus came to them in their time of need.
2. Jesus come to others in unexpected ways also.
  - He comes into hearts in unexpected ways.
  - He comes into homes unexpectedly.
    - It may be through a word from someone or a visit from someone, or a call or a letter.
3. The disciples didn't recognize Jesus at first because of the manner of His appearing.
  - There are countless ways that Jesus comes to us and it is foolish for anyone to try to limit Jesus to how one thinks that Jesus should, might, or will appear.

## **VI. PETER TOOK HIS EYES OFF JESUS AND BEGAN TO SINK**

1. When one, like Peter, sees and hears only the storm and not Jesus, he/she will begin to sink.
  - As long as Peter looked at Jesus, he was safe.
  - Something caused Peter to not see Jesus, the tossing waves, the roar of the thunder, the strong winds, but when he could not see Jesus, he began to sink.
2. There are storms, tempests, things which arise in one's life that blinds, deafens, causes one to lose sight of Jesus and brings confusion, loss and separation.
3. When one sees nothing but the "storm" and not Jesus, he/she will sink.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Life is full of tossings and twistings, frights and unknowns but as long as one keeps his/her eyes upon Jesus, staying in touch with Him, remembering that He cares and will help, there will be safety.
2. Jesus will come to help in various ways and times, but Jesus will be there.
3. Whenever one takes his/her eyes off Jesus for whatever reason, there will be confusion, fear and loss of the sense of His presence.
4. Jesus cares and wants to help every one of His family IF they will turn to Him for that needed help.