

## 're-thinking' some parables No.14

### NO GOING BACK

Jesus had just finished 'Church' on the mountainside. It was a large meeting of well over five thousand people. Everyone was blessed as they received the word of grace seen in the five loaves and the blessings of seeing a mighty outreach as everyone witnessed the Lord in action as seen with the fish. What a gathering . . . certainly it would be included in the list of revivals of the hour. The 'ministry' were also thrilled at being used in such a marvelous display of Divine power. They certainly had a compassion for the crowds and it felt good at having been used by the Lord to bless in such a way. Yes, everyone received!

**That sets the scene for the next phase of the Lord's dealings with His disciples.** The disciples were very much alert and probably not at all tired. They were just about ready to relax for the evening when Jesus spoke to them in a very compelling way . . . it created in these surrendered and teachable ones "the-can't-help-but-do-it" feeling!

### Matthew 14:22-33

(22) *And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before Him unto the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.*

'No time to relax in your walk for I desire that you go to the other side of this lake. Get into this ship together and go to the other side'. Interesting command this . . . the '*other side*' comes from a word meaning *to pierce . . . to get beyond!* **Jesus was challenging them to go beyond the place of blessing . . . go beyond 'Pentecost' and beyond the traditions of men and men's expectations. . . go on from moving in the earthly to moving in the spirit. . . go on from your reasonings within you to moving by revelation of His will. Go on a journey of change . . . from glory to glory into His image. Go on a journey where you cannot see the way for it is dark. It is a journey of faith "*to the other side*" which is so essential in order to please Him.**

This journey is to the other side of the veil . . . to a walk of experiencing the Feast of tabernacles. In order to do that, you must leave the arena of Pentecost with its miracles and blessings as its main desire. Don't look at numbers . . . the majority of Christians are satisfied with the revivals and miracles and blessings and, yes, they are great and helpful . . . **but** your Lord has spoken into your heart to go on from there. . . go on from where you have been . . . go on to the other side of the veil so that He might enable you to walk **AS** Him.

(23) *And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, He was there alone.*

Jesus sent the crowd away to go to their own homes and continue doing what they have been doing. If you are going forward at the word of Jesus, you will not be surrounded by large numbers. . . for there is only a *few chosen* — sometimes called a '*remnant*' — who will be with you in this journey into life.

Jesus went up (Gk. for *ascended*) to a higher place than where they were and prayed. *Even the winds and seas obey Him.* He probably prayed for them to have strength and 'stickability' for He was going to test them in order to show them just how much *they* could accomplish . . .

These disciples were of like mind for they had all heard the words of command from Jesus. Having heard, they determined to **walk by faith** not knowing how hard it would become for them to make headway.

*(24) But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.*

A great effort was made by these disciples. They were about halfway there! It had been tough going and they had done everything necessary for progress. . . but Jesus had prayed!!!

The wind of doubt and pressures of prevailing circumstances were taking their toll of these 'called-across' ones. Their circumstances were very up and down . . . one moment they were able to glimpse where they were going and the next it was hidden from their sight. *"If it wasn't just for this wind"* they moaned. Peter, who always seems to picture each one of us so well, is beat and ready to give up for they had been struggling for most of the night.

*(25) And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.*

The fourth watch was the last watch of the night: those awake in it, would see the new day dawn. They would be the ones who would welcome the sunrise . . . it was just beginning to get light.

Have you '*hung-in-there*' through the darkness when one cannot walk by sight, but by faith, you have seen the beginning of the new day . . . at least a little indication that it is there and it is coming? You will probably identify with these disciples for they were very weary having *pressed towards the high calling of God* for most of the night . . . and under such circumstances just might not see or hear clearly what God was doing or saying?

*(26) And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear".*

They reasoned an answer for their predicament . . . close but not accurate. *"It is a spirit"* they concluded. They were right but only half right. Jesus was there at the precise moment when they had come to say within themselves, *"We can't make it"*. Jesus had so prayed up a storm in order that they might see that the resources to obtain the promise were not of themselves, but can only be from Him. . . in fact be Him. '*Walking on water*' in the spirit, is simply moving in the Christ-life . . . that of doing what He desires and it will always be without any strain on our part. It is walking supernaturally naturally. They were entering into a new experience with their Lord and because they had nothing to compare this to, they were scared and on their guard. God has declared that in this hour He is doing a new thing. Being that it is new, no-one has seen it before. It is a big step of faith to expect it to come forth and an even bigger step to be involved in it.

*(27) But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid".*

He was there (no delays!) . . . *faithful is He who commanded you do it, for He will enable you to perform it* also. He first deals with our concerns and imparts faith to replace fear. Natural concerns become of minor importance. The influence of the crowd right now would be like walking on land where faith is not required in the same way.

Upon seeing Jesus . . . being still fairly dark it would be a knowing it was Him out there . . . Peter sees the only way that they are going to make it to shore (*other side* preferred) is an utter dependency upon Jesus . . . and He was right there at the right time.

*(28) And Peter answered Him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.*

The inward cry was spoken. You said that the things you did, we would do also. While not holding God hostage to His word, Peter's faith increased because of knowing the presence of His Lord. *Now You are*

*here, I can do it!*

*(29) And He said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.*

*Faith without works* (action) *is dead*. Peter went down out of the ship. . . he went down from a slightly elevated place that we easily get to because of the revelation that we have received . . . especially knowing that we have been called to experience the Feast of Tabernacles. His eyes upon the Master, He was walking in a new dimension . . . all the tumultuous thinking of the natural realm was under his feet . . . he didn't notice how smooth the pathway to Jesus was. . . but . . .

*(30) But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, "Lord, save me"*.

Peter-us took his eyes off of Jesus . . . just for a moment . . . and the pressure of the wind and the waves challenged his thinking. He reverted back to '*the mind of Peter*' instead of being stayed upon '*the mind of Christ*'. His faith failed but not entirely, for it was to Jesus that he called out for assistance.

We do not know just how far Peter had traveled in his new walk. Whether it was a few yards of many yards, at that moment of again fully depending upon the Lord, He was there . . . for He will never forsake you.

*(31) And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, "O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"*

If Peter had '*little faith*', just how much had the others who were still in the ship?

Peter depicts the real overcomers who are prepared to go through with all the processings that this journey entails. Peter, you had '*little faith*' about the size of a mustard seed but it was enough to show the others what this journey consisted of.

*(32) And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.*

It was not when Jesus came into the ship that the wind ceased, it was rather when Peter and Jesus **together** came into the ship that the wind ceased and there was a calm sea. The Lord has purposed to accomplish His plan of the ages through His chosen vessels . . .

*(33) Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped Him, saying, "Of a truth thou art the Son of God"*.

The others who had not ventured out on the water acknowledge that it was **the Lord, the Supreme Pattern-Son of God** and they could do only one thing . . . worship Him for He had again shown them the true qualities of a son of God. When every mighty expressive step is accomplished by His grace, we will only want to worship Him . . . and that will mean letting go all the oars! Yes all the helps that you have hung onto in order to achieve what He has declared you can do to receive all that He said you are. §