

HAVE THE COURAGE TO GET OUT OF THE BOAT

1/22/12 AM
Mat 14:22-31

Many, including me have preached on this portion of scripture. Many lessons here. What I want to look at today is the Courage Peter had to get out of the boat in the first place. And, I want to contrast his courage with those other 11 disciples who had no courage, and no faith to join him. Say what you may about Peter. Yes, he was brash. Yes, he was boastful. Yes, he shot first and asked questions later. But Peter took a step of faith when others decided to be nothing but “Boat People”.

1. Boat people choose to sit. Peter had the courage to step out of the boat. Boat people just want to sit. All of the disciples had the same opportunity to take that step of faith. **Matthew 14:27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.** Note; “Jesus spake unto THEM” Jesus wasn’t talking to Peter only. He spoke to all 12. Today, Jesus is speaking to the church when he says, “Go ye therefore!” in Matthew 28:19. He’s not talking to a select few, but to us all. It is our choice to either have the faith, and courage to get out of our seats and into the harvest or to be boat people, and just sit and watch.

2. Boat people choose to watch. Peter was the only one who had the courage to respond to Jesus. What do you suppose the “boat people” were doing while Peter was having that conversation? They were observers, afraid to line up against that railing and join Peter in the conversation. Today Jesus is saying, “get out of the bleachers and join the team on the field!” Serving Christ is not a spectator sport.

3. Boat people choose to wait. Peter could have simply waited until Jesus completed his water-walk to the boat. But he had the courage to “go to him”. **Matthew 14:29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.** Jesus is still calling for his people to come unto Him **Matthew 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.** Why do we wait? Don’t be a boat people. If you are here today without Christ as your Personal Saviour, why are you waiting? If you are a child of God and know He is calling unto you to have a closer relationship, why are you waiting? Be courageous. Maybe God is calling you to take on some responsibility here at The Olde Tyme Baptist Church. What are you waiting for. Perhaps He’s calling you to place your membership here. Why do you wait? Have the courage to step out of the boat and walk to Jesus.

* When we have the courage to step out of the boat, we can have the confidence that we are stepping out with Jesus: **Matthew 14:28-29 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.** Even when he was sinking, he was closer to Jesus than the rest of the disciples. Boat people will always be at an arms distance from Christ. Oh, sure, you’re saved. But are you walking hand-in-hand with the one who gave His life for

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you? When we are in the depths of despair, sinking in trials, troubles or sin, Jesus is saying, “come unto me”. We must have the courage to step out of the boat and go to Him. There is nothing too great, no sin too deep, that Jesus cannot lift you up!

* Having the courage to step out of the boat takes faith! People often talk about Peter’s “little faith”; **Matthew 14:31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?** How much faith did it take to have the courage to step out of the boat? He certainly had more faith than the boat people. When we courageously step out of the boat and go to Jesus, life’s challenges will still happen. The winds of trouble will still swirl around us, and our faith will be challenged. But, just as Jesus caught Peter just in time, He will catch us.... Just in time! Peter stepped out in faith and took a walk on the water with Jesus. Imagine!

* Boat people will never take that step of faith. They will cower in the lower decks of fear and despair. They will never feel the exhilaration of walking on the water with Jesus. **2 Corinthians 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)** Boat people say, “when I see Jesus, I’ll walk to Him!” Jesus says “when you walk to me, you will see me”. Peter couldn’t see Jesus when he had the courage to step out of the boat. **Matthew 14:28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.** He stepped out on faith. And when he went to Jesus, he saw him, called out to him, and Jesus saved him. **Matthew 14:30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.** If you are here without Christ today, you are saying what the boat people were saying, “we’ll believe Him when we can see him!” But salvation is by faith; **Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.** When you have the courage to get out of your boat of unbelief, you will see Jesus, and He will save you. **Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**

Are you more like Peter today? Or are you more like the “boat people”? Do you have the courage to step out of the boat? Are you ready to meet Jesus on that sea of faithfulness? Paul writes; **Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.** Peter was “diligently seeking” Christ that night on the sea of Galilee. How about you today? Are you willing to take that step out of the boat and diligently seek Christ in faith?