

Faith Boosters  
Matthew 8:23-27; 14:22-33  
The Laurel Center  
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**Main Idea:** Knowing Jesus is Lord over creation and nature empowers our faith.

**Introduction**

The world's hungry for God, a truly powerful God who can do all things. With all of the troubles happening in our world from natural disasters to diseases to crime we all seek a Savior of sorts. Especially as believers we need to go that God is not only with us in the trial that has power over it. Matthew 8 and 14 show us that Jesus has power over nature, fear and lack of faith. He can do all things and knowing that makes the trial bearable. In both instances Jesus demonstrates power over storms and water. He shows that he truly is the Lord of all creation!

**Matthew 8:23–27**

**23** And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. **24** And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. **25** And they went and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." **26** And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. **27** And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"

**I.** Jesus has power over nature.

**A** Storms in life do not surprise Jesus.

- 1 In what would be a usually typical trip from one place of ministry to the next Jesus and the disciples got into a boat to travel across a sea. But everything that happened next is completely unnatural.
- 2 It begins as Jesus is resting in the boat as the disciples man the boat. Many of these are professional sailors who have lived on this see their entire lives.
- 3 Nothing gets to these professional fisherman who have been on this see the line every possible weather pattern. We must realize this because it is important to the details of the story.
- 4 Everything was going great until I storm, a squall, suddenly came down on the sea and put the entire boat and its inhabitants in great peril. The storm seems to be unnatural because even the disciples are scared.
- 5 Jesus is calm, in fact sleeping in the boat, while all of the water is swamping the whole boat so that it is full of water and is in danger of sinking.

- 6 Get Jesus is peacefully sleeping through this whole event! He is unafraid of the storm that is squalling around them. In this case especially his divinity is clear.
- 7 His lack of fear shows his divinity because Jesus should've at least been woken up by this calamity all around him. And yet he is peaceable and sleeping, trusting in God and unafraid of the creation around him.

**B** Nature is held captive by Jesus.

- 1 The disciples are not so common as Jesus despite their years of experience and professional fishing expeditions in these waters all their lives. The disciples react and complete fear and terror at the waves and the winds.
- 2 They are so afraid of the storm and their inability even as professional fisherman to deal with the storm that they wake Jesus and beg him to save them from the storm.
- 3 They are afraid their very lives are in danger from this great storm. They call on Jesus who was a carpenter. In their fear they are completely irrational unless they truly believe that Jesus can do something they can't.
- 4 Fear tends to make us freeze and hold us captive. It is most likely the disciples were so frantic in their fear that they turn to Jesus because he seemed so calm.
- 5 Get Jesus is exactly the one they should've turned to. He did not need to do anything brave or something they had not thought of as fisherman. Instead, Jesus does a miracle and tells the storm to stop.
- 6 Imagine what it must of been like to be on that boat that night and see Jesus simply command the waves and the wind to stop. All of the sudden they completely obey his word and cease!
- 7 The same Jesus who was there at creation, whose word commanded creation to do whatever he asked his standing on the boat and once again commanding creation to do his bidding.
- 8 **Application:** This great king, this great God is our best friend. The creator of the universe is our best friend! We should never fear any storm in life because Jesus is with us. We should never fear and a trial that come because Jesus is on our side. He is looking out for us and he cares a great deal for us. He is for us! Never fear anything that comes your way that threatens you in any way because Jesus is your guard and King. He is watching over us and has great power to defend us.

**Matthew 14:22–27**

**22** Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. **23** And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain

by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, **24** but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. **25** And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. **26** But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. **27** But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

## **II.** Jesus has power over fear.

### **A** Sometimes we don't recognize Jesus.

- 1 This time Jesus is not with the disciples on the water but is instead recuperating from ministry by praying and connecting with his Father. The disciples are sent ahead of him in the boat without clear instruction as to when and how Jesus will meet with them.
- 2 Jesus is on the mountainside spending time with the Lord and noticing the plight of his disciples on the water. Once again he must leave communion with his Father to help the disciples.
- 3 In both of these episodes we see the common theme of the disciples have little faith. They are afraid of the squall in the first episode and afraid of him and the squall in the second episode.
- 4 A great storm comes up against the disciples and once again his professional fisherman and sailors are unprepared for the trial that they face. But they are not alone even though they think they are.
- 5 We are never alone no matter how great the storm rages around us. We must not forget that Jesus is our best friend and that he is with us even when we don't feel his presence.
- 6 He comes to them in the middle of the night and they do not recognize him. How often does Jesus come to our aid and we do not realize that it is him working on our behalf?
- 7 The disciples don't recognize Jesus and 50 is a ghost. They are actually afraid of the one person who can do something about their storm. Have when Jesus comes to us we need to be able to recognize that it is him!

### **B** Jesus reassures us he is there for us.

- 1 In the midst of the disciples' fear Jesus calls out to them and assures them that it is he. He is the one coming to their aid and on their behalf. They need not be afraid of him.
- 2 I love the fact that Matthew tells us the disciples on seeing Jesus and being afraid cried out fear but Jesus immediately calmed them down by telling them who he was.

- 3 The Lord immediately responds to our fears and shows us that he is there to take our fears away. He does not wait and enjoy the fact that we are afraid.
- 4 God does not enjoy seeing his children in fear. We are supposed to be unafraid because of our faith in Christ and our confidence that he will always be with us and he has the power to dispel the darkness around us.
- 5 He is immediate and his responses to our trials. He is always with us and his presence is all we need to calm the storms in our lives and the fears in our hearts.
- 6 We do not have to be afraid of any storm that comes in our lives. The trials that we face are smaller than the God that we serve. If we could recognize that immediately we would never have to worry about what is coming our way.

### **Matthew 14:28–33**

**28** And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” **29** He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. **30** But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” **31** Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” **32** And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. **33** And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

### **III.** Jesus gives power to believe.

#### **A** Jesus cultivates the little faith we have.

- 1 Peter, often the brash disciple, still has the faith to want to be like his Rabbi and walk on water just like Jesus. He sees Jesus doing something impossible and he knows that Jesus wants his disciples to be like him.
- 2 So Peter in his brashness actually acts in faith and tells Jesus that if he commanded him to come across the water to meet him Peter would do it gladly.
- 3 Our faith should be so strong as to not be afraid to do something we believe is impossible. Jesus gave us the power to do greater things than him. These greater things mean that we will do more of the same of what Jesus can do.
- 4 If the same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in us through the Holy Spirit, we should never be afraid to demonstrate that faith and do what Jesus did.

- 5 What would the world look like if we had the face of Peter to get out of the boat and walk on water like Jesus? What other things would be different in our world if we demonstrated that kind of faith today?
- 6 Jesus does not react by laughing at Peter's request but actually says "Come." Jesus cultivates Peter's faith and initiative. He wants to see his children doing great things in faith.
- 7 Even the little faith that we have to begin calling on him and doing what he does is rewarded. When we actually get it right and have the courage and faith to trust Jesus to take what little we have and make it great, Jesus is glorified in us.

**B** Jesus challenges the little faith we have.

- 1 At the same time, Peter's little bit of faith is enough to get him out of the boat and onto the water is not enough to keep him on the water by himself.
- 2 Peter has his eyes focused on his Master and as long as his eyes are fixed on Jesus he can walk on the water. But the moment he takes his eyes off of Jesus he loses the faith to do what Jesus is doing.
- 3 When we lose our focus and stop looking at Jesus and look back at the world will look at things around us, we give up the power of faith in Jesus and our ability to do the impossible things he has called us to do by his power.
- 4 Even when our little bit of faith is not enough to do what Jesus calls us to do and we find ourselves in danger because of the situations we have acted in faith to get into, Jesus is still there to rescue us from ourselves.
- 5 Even when we fail Jesus he is not upset with us but will disappoint us and teach us that our faith should be enough. He calls us out for having too little faith to completely serve him well.
- 6 And yet Jesus lovingly supports us in the little bit of faith that we demonstrate. While he cultivates that desire to serve him with our whole heart he also challenges that little bit of faith to grow strong and large.
- 7 Just like in salvation, Jesus does not just leave us with a little bit of faith he challenges us to grow it in him and to do these greater things he has called us to do.
- 8 Jesus is there to rescue us from ourselves and the little bit of faith that turns into doubt when we look around us at the dangers. He wants us to be strong in our faith and trust that he is with us.
- 9 As soon as we focus on Jesus and remain strong and standing on him is our foundation, we can complete our mission for him and the trials around us cease in his presence.

## **Conclusion**

We can place our trust in Jesus because we know that he has all power and there is nothing that can keep him from being with us and be in our foundation. He is always there for us even when we fail in our faith. He is always reminding us that he is greater than the trials around us. Every storm in our lives is meant as a teaching moment to make us run to Christ and to continue to focus on him. Let us use every trial and test to turn to Christ, focus on him and demonstrate extreme faith that will make him proud.