

FAITH & FEAR

MATTHEW 14:22-36

Doubting does not prove that a man has no faith, but only that his faith is small. And even when our faith is small, the Lord is ready to help us.

-J.C. Ryle

I. The Setting

II. The Storm

III. The Summary

Getting to Know You:

1. What situations challenge your faith the most?

Into the Bible:

2. The disciples had already experienced a violent storm on the Sea of Galilee while travelling with Jesus. (Matthew 8:23-27) Then Jesus was in the boat with them unlike this time. He still has to tell them to take courage and not fear. Read the following passages and identify the common basis for courage when God commands it?

(Joshua 1:9, I Chronicles 28:20, Psalm 27:14, Isaiah 41:10)

3. Jesus apparently called his disciples “ye of little faith” somewhat frequently. Do you think his brother James knew of this incident and referred to it when writing of faith and doubt in James 1:5-8?

Application:

4. Read Hebrews 11:1 for a definition of faith. How does vision play into Peter’s lapse into swimming rather than walking? What does II Corinthians 5:7 remind us about our walk of faith?

For Families:

5. Talk to your children about how we can trust in God when we are afraid.