



4/13/26

*I love how Tim used the illustration of Jesus being in the fire with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He does the same for you and me. No matter what we go through, He is here with us... giving us the strength to stand. The question is not, "Will Jesus be there?" The question is, "Am I willing to say, 'My God can, my God will, and even if He doesn't, I will worship Him'?" I pray that we will. We will never regret it.*

*Blessings,  
Jonna*

*Matthew 14:22-33*

*This situation happened several months after Jesus was abruptly woken up from His sleep on a boat, accused of not caring, and then He calmed the storm... which, of course, proved to the disciples both His authority over nature and His care for them. But can Jesus handle the situation when He's not even in the boat??? Yeypers.*

*This situation in Matthew 14 started out similarly to the one in Mark 4. Jesus had been teaching all day long. He had even done more here. He healed the sick and the lame, and He fed thousands of people with only 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread. Now it was evening. But this time, when Jesus told the disciples to go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, He didn't get into the boat with Him.*

*This time, Jesus went to be with the Father. He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. This is a big deal... Jesus went to pray. Some people will say, "Why should I pray? God already knows what I'm thinking." Well... The Father certainly knew what Jesus was thinking, but He still went to pray. Why? He just wanted to talk with His Dad.*

*That's the main purpose of prayer... I talk with my Father in heaven because of our relationship. It's not all about asking Him for stuff, although I'm allowed to ask. But more than anything, it's about an intentional relationship with Him. Try to live in a house with a person and refuse to talk or listen... and see how well that relationship goes. Lack of communication makes*

*a relationship grow cold. I think Jesus never would have considered ignoring conversation with the Father, because they were so completely unified in their relationship. O Lord, I praise You that You want that kind of relationship with me, and I can have it. I want You to be the first Person I go to when I want to celebrate with someone, when I want to cry with someone, and when I just want to talk with someone about the day.*

*So... Jesus was alone on a mountain, talking to the Father. While they were talking, a big windstorm started beating against the boat the disciples were in, a long distance from where Jesus was. Why let this happen? He who spoke the world into existence knew what was happening to the disciples. But He wasn't afraid. He could have beamed Himself to their side, but instead He took a walk. He walked on the water to the boat.*

*Why walk to the boat... on the massive waves with the massive wind? How did the waves and the wind not push Jesus over??? I can only imagine what this must have looked like. What did Jesus say to the terrified disciples when these grown men cried out, "It's a ghost!?" He immediately said, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."*

*Let me not miss this... the disciples were terrified, but Jesus wasn't! He was in complete control. He knew that this storm would not take them out. That's why He can remain so calm when I'm not. He is not surprised by anything and He has complete authority over all of it. "My God is my refuge and strength, an ever present help in times of trouble. Therefore I will not fear, though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea..." (Psalm 46:1-2). O Lord, if I will only believe what's absolutely true, then I will be able to have the same peace and stillness that You did, and the same peace and stillness the wind and the waves had when You commanded them to be still.*

*Peter said to Jesus, "Lord... Master... if it IS You, command me to come to You on the water." This is really cool. In Mark 4, the disciples just called Jesus "teacher", meaning, "You who share information with me." Now, a few months later, Peter calls Him "Lord." He has become more than a teacher to them. Now they call Him "Master." Peter had seen Jesus do amazing miracles... If it was anyone or anything else, they would not be able to command Peter to come on the water and be able to hold him up. Peter knew Jesus could do it.*

*I also love that Peter didn't say, "If it is You, command the WIND and the WAVES to stop." It wasn't about changing the circumstances. It was about coming to the Lord. O Lord, I want to have that kind of relationship with You... that I'm less concerned about changing my circumstances and more committed to being near You.*

*Jesus told Peter, "Come." And Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water all the way to Jesus. It says "he came to Jesus." He must have been within inches of Jesus when he noticed, "Holy moly! Those waves are massive!!!" Peter got his eyes off of Jesus and stuck on the waves, and then he began to sink. He cried out, "Lord... Master... save me!" Did Jesus let him sink? No way.*

*Jesus could have said, "You didn't trust Me? Then figure it out for yourself." But He didn't. He IMMEDIATELY reached out and took hold of Peter. This again is so cool to me. Jesus didn't have to reach out and take Peter's hand. He could have just commanded the water to lift him out. Jesus was not only saving Peter, He was comforting him as well. He touched him. This reminds me of David's words in Psalm 139:5, "You hem me in behind and before, and lay Your hand on me." Jesus touched Peter, held his hand, and lifted him out of the water. He does the same for me... even though I don't see Him.*

*I love that Peter cried out for Jesus to save him. He didn't try to fix the problem in his own strength. He was a seasoned fisherman. He might have tried to prove that he could do something... and then sink worse. He could have been too proud to ask for help since the other guys were watching. But no. He knew he was helpless without Jesus and he went to the source for help. O Lord, please help me not to try to do it in my own strength. I'll only sink worse.*

*After lifting Peter out of the water, Jesus said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" I don't think Jesus was mad at Peter. I think He was grieved. He wanted Peter to trust that He would be there for him, no matter what. I know Peter did eventually grow in trusting Jesus because years later, when he was executed for his faith in Jesus, historians say that he was crucified upside down by his own request under Nero's evil reign. Even then, he didn't ask Jesus to change his circumstances. He celebrated that Jesus commanded him to come to Him... to come home. O Lord, I so want to have that same heart and faith!!!*

*Wherever they were when Peter started to sink, they couldn't have been right next to the boat because Peter had walked to Jesus. So Jesus took him by the hand, walked him back to the boat, helped him get inside the boat... and it was only then that Jesus calmed the storm. I can be sure that Jesus will ALWAYS calm the storms of my life AND He will be with me holding me up every step of the way until the wind and the waves calm. I am never left to face it alone. Even when it seems like I am alone... like they probably felt alone because Jesus had gone to be with the Father on the top of a mountain... we are never alone.*

*In Mark 4, when Jesus calmed the storm, the disciples said, "Who IS this that the wind and the sea obey Him?" Here, a few months later, after seeing Jesus do miracle after miracle, and after spending more time with Him, they WORSHIPED Him saying, "Truly You ARE the Son of God." Let me never think that the storms of my life are hitting because Jesus is sleeping, weak, or doesn't care. Every storm is an opportunity for me to draw closer to Him and to experience His presence and power in my life. Jesus, let every storm be an opportunity for me to say, "Command me to come to YOU."*

*I LOVE this passage. It's one of my favorites of all the stories in the gospel. I see Jesus' power, authority, compassion, mercy, and wisdom. I see how patient He is even when I let my eyes drift away from Him and start to sink. I see how He never leaves me alone in the storm. I see that in His perfect timing He always calms the waves. He has no fear because nothing is too big for Him. I am safe as long as I'm with Him. Jesus, command me to come to You.*