

This week...

Read the full passage Matthew 14:19b-33

Monday Matthew 14:23 “*Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray.*”

Why did Jesus make the disciples go ahead without Him? Use your concordance or a cross reference to find other passages where Jesus went off by Himself to pray. What can we learn from His example?

Tuesday Matthew 14:25 “*During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.*”

There were other ways to have caught up with the disciples. Why walk on the water? What was observed and learned by the disciples from this very different sort of miracle? What might we learn?

Wednesday Matthew 14:27 “*Jesus immediately said to them: ‘Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.’*”

Explore the impact and importance of Jesus’ words to His terrified disciples. Does this have any meaning for you today? Do you have personal examples of a similar encounter with the Lord?

Thursday Matthew 14:30 “*But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, ‘Lord, save me!’*”

Peter found himself in a very uncomfortable place. Why? Spend some time reflecting on things you are facing that have upset and distracted you from focusing on Jesus. What are you going to do about it? Make a commitment to God to follow through on what you know the Lord would have you do.

Friday Matthew 14:31-33 “*‘You of little faith,’ he said, ‘why did you doubt?’ And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God.’*”

Are you able to explain the difference between doubt and faith? Why do believers doubt? Is doubt bad? What was the outcome of the disciples’ doubt in this story?

In a few sentences, can you wrap up what the key takeaways of Matthew 14:19b-33 are? Find a quiet place where you can pray undisturbed about what God is saying to you regarding your faith, fears, focus, and future concerning God’s purpose and your obedience. How will this fit together to honor Him and allow you to serve your brothers and sisters in shared ministry?