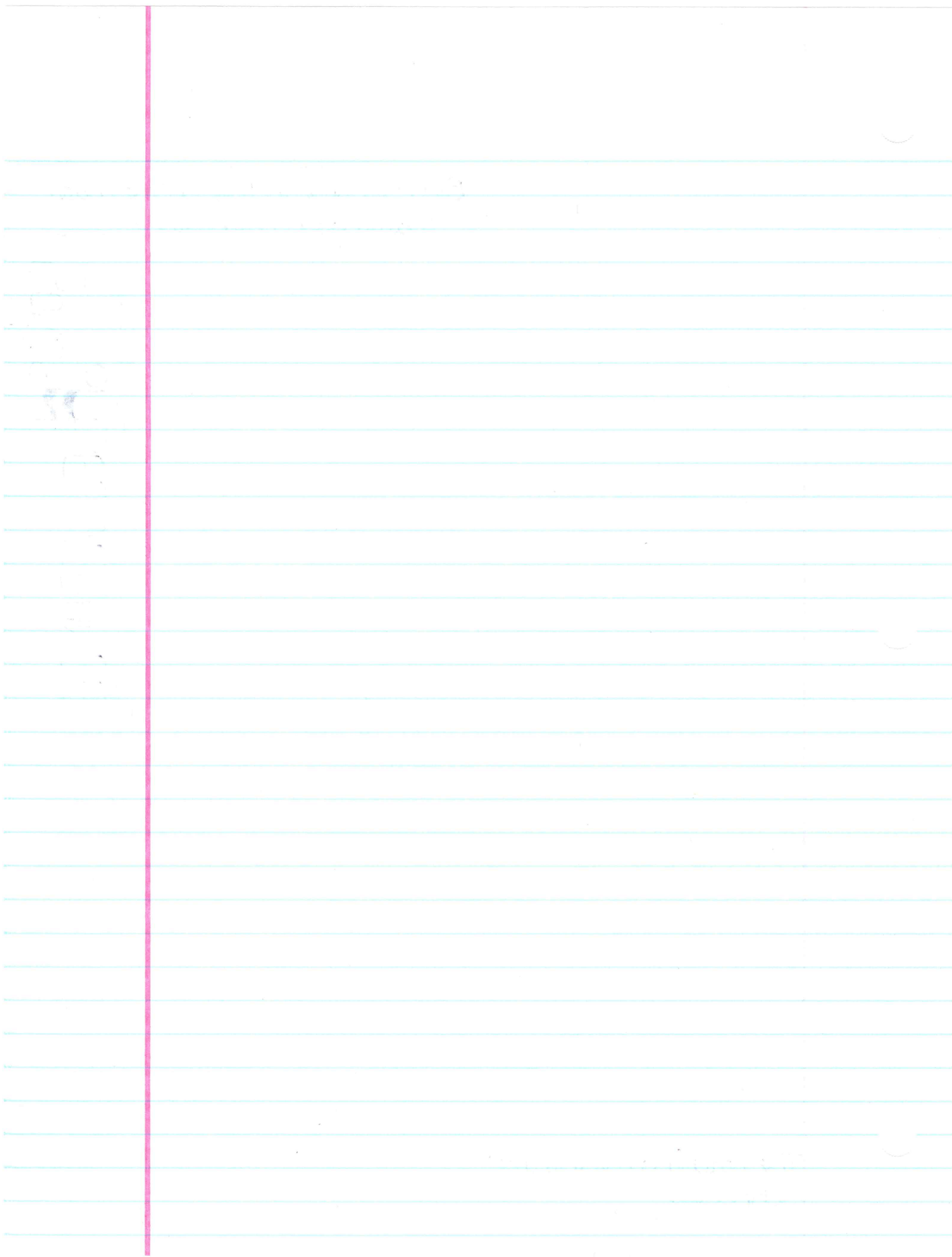


#14

Bid Me Come To Thee On The Water
— Walking On Faith Alone

SONGS
OF
PERSISTENCE
— Psalm 32:7 —

The teaching ministry of
John Kerr



- Matt 14: 22-33

- Key Verse: Matt 14: 33

Bid Me Come To Thee On The Water

- Walking On Faith Alone -

One word from Jesus is enough to sustain you through anything.

"Come."

Jesus and Peter walked on the water in a storm. He had sent the disciples across the Sea of Galilee in the evening, after feeding the 5000. At about 4 AM, they were only half-way! "The wind was contrary." According to my Bible maps, they were only crossing about 1/4 of the sea to begin with. This was a considerable wind storm! It stopped them.

Now, Jesus needed to cross over, as well. They took the boat so He had no choice but to walk.

1. Before Jesus asked Peter to Step Out In Faith, He First Walked Half-way Across The Sea, Himself. - v. 25

"For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin." - Heb 4:15 (NKJV)

"Well, Jesus was God, He could do anything." Though Jesus WAS God, the Son, He did not function as deity on earth. He lived His life as a man. - John 1:14 He BECAME flesh. He didn't just inhabit flesh. Otherwise, the above verse is meaningless. If Jesus functioned as God, then so what if He was tempted like us? He was NOT like us. In order for His earthly struggles to matter to humans, He had to BE human.

The same thing that held Peter up on that water, held Jesus up! If Jesus had doubted, He would have sunk!

SONGS
of
DELIVERANCE

And the same thing will sustain us when we walk on top of our storms. FAITH!

II. When We Live By The Flesh, We Do Not Recognize When Jesus Comes To Help Us. - v. 26

- When "Jesus went unto them"; instead of recognizing Him in faith, they cried out in fear.

"For of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh." - Luke 6:45; Mt 12:34

- What is in our hearts in abundance is what comes out in the storm. Notice what kind of absurd "realities" the devil will put in our minds when we are living in fear. Had the disciples thought about what they'd just seen Jesus do; don't you think their first response would have been, "There's only One who could walk on water! That's Jesus!"

- Peter wasn't the only one looking at the storm instead of the Son. -

- Despite the fact that at least three of these guys were professionals on the water, THIS storm stopped them. Walking in faith, Jesus crossed without difficulty.

- Faith is so much easier! -

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy

Faith is so much easier! way acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." - Prov 3:5-6

III. Peter Asked To Step Out Where Only The Power of Jesus' Word Would Hold Him Up. - v 28, 29

- Peter had learned some faith! He reasoned that if it wasn't Jesus, he'd sink immediately. If it was, Jesus' command would hold him. 'Not a bad start!'

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Jesus said, "Come."

- There will come a day, when Jesus calls you to walk out, where all you have to stand on is faith in Him and His Word. (The two are the same - John 1:1-5, 14)

Peter had only one word from Jesus.

- Can you step out, with only the assurance in your heart that Jesus told you to? •
- That assurance only comes by immersion in God's Word. - John 1:8 • Rom 10:17 •

IV. Peter Sank, But He Learned Faith. - v. 30

- When we step out, Satan will try to remind us how impossible what we are doing is. Peter was already doing the impossible when he got distracted.

* When Jesus says to do the impossible, don't get distracted by "reality"! *

• Peter was walking OVER his circumstances!

(Don't be too hard on him. Remember, he's the one who's going to meet you at the Pearly Gates! Kidding.)

- Several times in these 33 months in prison, I've heard the Lord say to me, "Don't look at the water 'Peter'!"

"If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." - Mark 9:23 (NKJV)

Jesus does not exaggerate. "all things"; even walking on water in a storm, are possible. Even your problem.

- How?

1: Agree with the Word.

- Whatever your storm is, find what God's Word says about it. Start by asking the Holy Spirit to show you. - John 16:13

"He will show you things to come." Then...

2: Choose to believe the Word.

• Important! Whatever the Word says, you say. Fill your heart with that Word to the point that only that Word comes out of your mouth. "I don't care about the storm, Jesus said, 'Come'!"

"Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." - Romans 10:17

So, what you say is either helping your faith, or hurting it. Speaking only God's Word, that brings faith! Hear yourself speaking what God says.

3: Do not speak the circumstances, continue speaking the word.

Hear yourself = Even though Peter lost his focus for a moment, he didn't lose his faith.

God says! He didn't forsake Jesus, and swim back to the boat in anger. He called out to Jesus for help. He still realized who could put him back on his feet.

V. When We Fail, Jesus Response is not Condemnation, But Teaching. - v. 31

A. First, He Picks you Up.

"Immediately, Jesus stretched forth His hand, and caught him,"

You can walk out in faith, knowing that Jesus will be right there if you fail. Don't hide in the boat because you're afraid you don't have enough faith. Take His Word, and walk on the impossible.

"Look, I am about to do something new; even now it is coming. Do you not see it? Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert."

- Isaiah 43:19 (HCSB)

* Jesus is Master of the impossible situations in your life! *

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B. Then, He Helps You with Your Faith.

He got Peter to think, "Why did I doubt, when faith Take His Word, was working?" Don't we do the same and walk on thing?

the impossible! — We trust God and give, and He blesses us. Then, for some reason, we stop.

— We fill our hearts with His Word, and He pours out His Spirit and revelation to guide our lives. Then, we let Satan talk us away from the Secret Place.

... and we sink.

— God begins to use us at our church, and people's lives are being changed by the Word and the Spirit. Then, we start thinking it's from our talent.

... and we sink.

It is ALWAYS about Him.

"for whatsoever is not of faith is sin."

— Romans 14:23b —

Everything we do is supposed to be done by faith. Faith is simply believing God. Anything done not in dependence on Him is sin. Our righteous deeds for God do not impress Him at all! We are sinful flesh, and our Best human intentions are imperfect. God only accepts that which is spotless. Therefore, only what comes from Him is accepted by Him.

That is how you were made righteous in God's sight, and it is how you live after you have been justified.

Only Faith From
God pleases
God.

"For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is God's gift

- not from works, so that no one can boast.

For we are His creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time so that we should walk in them." - Eph 2:8-11 (HCSB) (emph. mine)

Notice:

- "saved... through faith" - depends on God
- "not from works" - depends on God
- "we are His creation" - depends on God
- "created in Christ Jesus" - depends on God
- "The just shall live by faith" - Romans 1:17

VI. Jesus Sent His Disciples Across That Lake To Learn Faith - v. 22

"And straightway Jesus constrained His disciples to get into a ship, and go before Him unto the other side, while He sent the multitudes away." - (emph. mine)

Jesus was pushy about it - "constrained". He made them go, while He dismissed a crowd of about 20,000 people by Himself.

* The Lord will send you into impossible situations, not to destroy you, but to build your dependence on Him. *

The closer we get to Jesus, the more we realize how pitifully little we contribute to the "greater works". (Jn 14:12)
- In fact, all we are asked to contribute is a grain of mustard seed. -

* Speak out of that seed of faith, AND MOUNTAINS MOVE!

VII. "Of a Truth Thou Art The Son of God" - v. 33 Breakthrough!

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Jesus gets into the boat, and the storm ends. The entire matter is about one thing. Once again, will you trust Jesus?

- Will you confidently stand on His Word?
- Will you ACT on that trust?
- Will you go ahead and walk out there; and if you fail, STILL trust Him to catch you?
- Will you and I ACTUALLY LIVE by faith?

If we will trust Him when there is nothing else to stand on, we will - WITHOUT FAIL - see what His disciples saw...

"Of a truth thou art the Son of God."

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." - Hebrews 11:1
You can stand on it, it is solid!

1. The first step is to identify the problem.

2. The second step is to define the problem.

3. The third step is to analyze the problem.

4. The fourth step is to plan the solution.

5. The fifth step is to implement the solution.

6. The sixth step is to evaluate the solution.

7. The seventh step is to communicate the solution.

8. The eighth step is to monitor the solution.

9. The ninth step is to maintain the solution.

10. The tenth step is to improve the solution.

11. The eleventh step is to document the solution.

12. The twelfth step is to review the solution.

13. The thirteenth step is to update the solution.

14. The fourteenth step is to test the solution.

15. The fifteenth step is to validate the solution.

16. The sixteenth step is to verify the solution.

17. The seventeenth step is to confirm the solution.