**MIRACLE SERIES #9-"The Hidden Blessings In The Storms Of Life" (Peter walking on the water)**

**(Matt. 14:22-33) -There are in reality 5 miracles that take place in this text: (1)-Christ walks on the water, (2)-Christ saves Peter from drowning while standing on top of the water, (3)-Christ instantly stops the storm, (4)-Christ causes the boat with the disciples in it to instantly be in its destination from the midst of the sea!, and (5)-PETER WALKS ON THE WATER! I said in the beginning there are 33 noted miracles of Christ in the gospels, but when you slowly break things down there are probably several hundred miraculous things surrounding each one!**

**Matthews gospel is the only one that records Peter walking on the water, but to gain more information about all that happened in this event, we will look into the books of Mark and John that tell about the same stormy night.**

**In this passage of Scripture, we find the disciples of our Lord trapped in the grip of a fierce storm. They find themselves in that storm, because they have been commanded by the Lord to cross the Sea of Galilee, v. 22. These men are in the will of the Lord and yet, we see them struggling against the storm. Try as they might, however, it appears that they are unable to make any headway. The wind is in their faces, v. 24. These 12 men are stuck in a storm and are unable to get out...\*There was one pastor that stated that there are many "Hidden blessings in the Storms of Life"! While the storms of life are never pleasant, they do produce certain benefits in our lives!** "**Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.**: Heb 12:11. **The Lord has a purpose in allowing the storms to rage in your life. Perhaps that purpose will become clear as I preach this morning.**

 V. 25 **STORMS ARE GOD'S MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION**

 **The very thing the disciples feared (the sea), was the very thing the Lord used as the vehicle to reveal Himself unto them. Notice how Jesus came to them that night:**

A. **He Comes In The Face Of Darkness** - The Bible says that Jesus came to them in "the fourth watch". Sometime between 3 AM and 6 AM, during the darkest hours of the night, Jesus came walking on the water! If you are walking through some dark times remember, THATS WHEN JESUS SHOWS HIMSELF TOO YOU! Even the darkest hours of life cannot hide you from the face of God. He is there even when you cannot see Him. **1 Kings 8:12**, "**Then spake Solomon, The LORD said that he would dwell in the thick darkness.**"; **Psalm 139:11-12**, "**If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me.Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee**."

B. **He Comes In The Face Of Disaster** - **The disciples were in a fight for their lives. Mark 6:48 says that they were "toiling in rowing". That is, they were struggling against the storm; and then Jesus came walking on the waves! There are times when we all feel like we have lost the battle with our storm, but may I remind you that just as surely as the Lord is in control of your blessings, He is also in charge of your storms?** **Think of the 3 Hebrews, Daniel, and Noah. God did not prevent any of these from going into the storm, but He saved them all in the midst of their storm. What He did for them, He will do for you!**

C. **He Comes On The Face Of The Deep** - The very thing the disciples feared, the raging sea, was the very thing God used as His vehicle to come to them. He never acted as though the storm was not fierce, He was telling them that He was greater than the storm!-(Romans 8:28)

II. V. 25-31 **STORMS ARE GOD'S MEANS OF TESTING**

A. V. 25-27 **They Reveal The Savior** **- When Jesus did come walking on the water, the disciples did not recognize Him. They thought He was a ghost...but He came to them with a word of peace, "be of good cheer." He came to them with a word of power, "It is I". He came to them with a word of potential, "be not afraid."**

 B. V. 28-29 **They Refine The Saint** - When Peter heard that it was the Lord, Peter wanted to join Jesus in walking on the water. Jesus simply told Peter to come. Peter obeyed and he too walked on the water. Jesus used the storm as a means of helping Peter grow in the faith.-(Peter did something he never had done!)

**You might be thinking, "But Peter's walk didn't last long, because shortly thereafter he was a sinking man"! However, Peter had a story that none of the other disciples ever had! Peter was the only one who could say, "I walked on my storm!" The Lord took a SEVERE STORM and made Peter more like Him. Remember, there were 12 men in that boat, but only one could say that he did just what Jesus did!**

C. V. 30-31 **They Remind The Saint** - Peter wanted to walk on water like Jesus. He put the Lord to the test and stepped onto the waves. However, he soon took his eyes off the Lord and when he did, he found himself in trouble. He remembered Who was in control and he called on the Lord and found the help he needed. **Like Peter, there are times when we get our eyes off the Lord during our storms. You see, if we successfully navigate the stormy waters of life, we deserve no credit for our abilities or our success. If we are successful, it is because there is One Who is greater than we are out there with us!**

III. V. 32-33 **STORMS ARE GOD'S MEANS OF TESTIMONY**

A. **They Testify Of His Power** - Jesus calmed the storm! He didn't say a thing, He just got into the boat with the disciples and the sea was calmed.

B. **They Testify Of His Person** - **When Jesus stilled the storm, the disciples knew that they were in the presence of God. They confessed Him and they bowed before Him in worship. When the storms of life come, they are designed to bring us to the place the disciples found themselves in at the end: on our knees in worship before Him.**

The storm much would have been much more bearable for them if they wouldn't have waited until the storm was over to bow before Him. They should have bowed in prayer WHILE the waves were still threatening their vessel

**Often it's difficult to see the blessings for the storm isn't it? Sometimes it is hard to imagine the Lord bringing any good out of what you are going through. I don't know the nature of the storm you are facing this evening, but I know the One Who still walks on the waves, and is able to make you to rise above your circumstances (walk on your storm!)**