

The Miracle of Jesus: Responding with Faith

Matthew 14:22-33

We Need a Miracle

A few weeks ago, I received a message from my friend about her challenging situation. She lost her husband to dementia, and her daughter has Alzheimer's. It is not easy for her to deal with the loss of her husband, who had been so wonderful to her and to many in the community and their church. To her, life seems to be a continuation of misfortunes. **There is a missionary couple** whose children were bullied and experienced racism at their school in the mission field. They have been called by God to serve in the country, but it is not easy for them to see their children go through such difficult times. **There is a lady** who is fighting her recurring breast cancer, and she seems to be very exhausted. Although she is surrounded by her supportive husband and family, she does not understand why she has to deal with the cancer again. She has faith, but she feels her faith becoming weaker and weaker. **There is a son** who is taking care of his mother, who has dementia, without support from his other siblings. Financially, physically, and emotionally, he has to go the extra mile alone. But he has done it faithfully because he loves his mother.

What they need urgently in their lives seems to be miracles from God. They might say, ["I need my God to be with me. I need peace from Him, which can settle down my fluctuating emotions. I need a miracle."](#) (*Need a lifeguard picture*)

Today's Scripture is about Jesus Christ's miracle, walking on the Sea of Galilee. I think it provides us with how we should understand miracles and how we can experience Jesus' miracles in our lives. Let's dive into the story together. There are some powerful and practical lessons from today's Scripture that can be applied to our lives.

The Source of Jesus' Miracles

After he fed five thousand men with five loaves of bread and two fish, resulting in so many people witnessing Jesus' miracle, he immediately made his disciples go to the other side of the Sea by boat and dismissed the crowds. Then he went up to a mountain to pray. Although we do not know the name of the mountain, he was there by himself to pray after his busy ministry, healing the sick and feeding people. He left all the praise and accolades of the people there and left them to be with God. That is the source of his miracle. Jesus Christ's connection to God and his intimacy with God are the foundation of his life and his ministries. That connection is the power bank of his miracles, which he cannot compromise with

anything. From evening to the following morning, Jesus was there alone to be with God.

Jesus' Miracle - Shattering Our Fixed Minds

Let us read the Scripture on the screen together.

“When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.” (Matthew 14:23-24 NRSV)

Some of Jesus' disciples were highly experienced fishermen. The Sea of Galilee had been their workplace their whole lives. However, they felt fear and danger as the winds were violent and vicious, with the waves mercilessly battering the boat. Although they were well acquainted with the sudden and unpredictable weather changes of the Sea, they were frightened and terrified because of the storm. There are times when even our experiences and knowledge cannot protect us and guarantee our safety. To make matters worse, the disciples also couldn't recall the miracles they had just experienced with so many people. They were not able to remember who they were as Jesus Christ's disciples. They couldn't think of how much they were cared for as Jesus' disciples. They simply focused on the ferocious attacks of the winds and waves, which threw their lives into turmoil.

At that very moment, Jesus walked toward them on the sea, and his disciples cried out in fear, **“It is a ghost!”** (Matthew 14:26 NRSV). They responded based on their limited understanding of the reality of a figure walking on water. They followed the common superstition of the time, believing the figure walking on the sea was a ghost.

The miracle of Jesus shatters our conventional, fixed ideas about our circumstances and invites us to embrace a renewed understanding of God as revealed through miraculous events.

“But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”” (Matthew 14:27 NRSV)

“Come”

Then we see Peter exercising his faith to walk on the water as he said, **“Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.”** (Matthew 14:28 NRSV). He was the only one among Jesus' disciples who requested to walk on the water with him. Jesus said to Peter, **“Come”** (Matthew 14:29 NRSV). **To experience miracles, we must come to Jesus. We must return to Jesus. We must redirect our eyes to Jesus.**

Real Issue - Our Focus on Jesus

Peter came out of the boat and walked toward Jesus. However, his faith was not strong enough to keep him on the water. Please join me as we read the Scripture on the screen. **“But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?””** (Matthew 14:30-31 NRSV).

The true challenge we have to confront is not the fierce wind and battering waves we face in our lives. We have to check on our hearts and eyes to see if they are directed toward Jesus, who is our miracle Maker. When Peter came out of the boat, he didn't lose his focus on Jesus. However, when he took his eyes off Jesus, focusing on the storm, he began to be afraid and sink.

Consider this. Jesus' miracle is not an absence of winds and waves that make an abrupt presence and attack our lives. They are always there, and we will encounter them unexpectedly. The miracle we truly need is Jesus Christ's presence, which fills our lives with joy, patience, hope, and peace in the midst of turmoil. When we keep our eyes on Jesus, we can find peace. Without Jesus, we will sink. Do not be distracted by the winds and waves you experience; we do not sink because of them, but because we lose focus on Jesus.

Worship

When Jesus and Peter got into the boat, the fierce and violent wind stopped. Those in the boat worshiped Jesus. Worship is an expression of our faith in Jesus and our recognition of Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Let us read the scripture on the screen.

“When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”” (Matthew 14:32-33 NRSV)

We do not see Jesus' disciples worshiping him until after Matthew 14. However, when they recognize Jesus as the Son of God—the Messiah with divine power and authority over creation—they begin to worship Him. It's important to note/understand that when we experience a miracle from Jesus, it is not solely for us; it is also meant for those around us.

Have you seen the movie, “Bruce Almighty”? It was released in 2003. I like the words spoken by Morgan Freeman about miracles in the movie. He portrayed God and offered advice on miracles to Bruce. **“Parting your soup is not a miracle, Bruce. It's a magic trick. A single mom who is working two jobs and still finds time to take her kid to soccer practice. That's a miracle. A teenager who says no to drugs and yes to an education. That's a miracle. People want me to do**

everything for them. But what they don't realize is that they have the power. You wanna see a miracle, son? Be the miracle."

Let us remember that we worship our Lord because we experience His miracles in our lives. Moreover, we can continually experience Jesus' miracles by being His helping hands and feet to those in need. Jesus' miracles are present among us, and He calls us to be His miracle makers.