

Greetings:

The study that Pastor Pat brings on Sunday mornings is a reflection of the study for that week. It represents a lot of research. Not all of what he has prepared is communicated. In an attempt to continue the learning process, he is making available his study notes to the congregation.

These notes are edited, but not “book” ready. To the critical eye, mistakes can possibly be found. Therefore, he asks that you take the material with humility, teach-ability, and charity.

Enjoy and if you should have any questions or corrections, please do not hesitate to email him at pastorpat@waukeshabible.org.

Date: **January 27, 2019**

Sermon Title: ***“You are Certainly God's Son!” (v. 33) DUH?!***

Sermon Series: Matthew

Text: Matthew 14:22-36

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Date: January 27, 2019
Title: "You are *Certainly* God's Son!" (v. 33) DUH?!
Text: Matthew 14:22-36
Theme: Jesus is the Son of God.

THE PROBLEM?

- Your problem isn't, "You do not think enough about yourself."
- Your problem is, "You think too highly of yourself."
- The way we read the Bible is proof positive of this.
- To read the Bible correctly is to remember who and what it is about.

HMMMMMMM?

- Walking In Christ
- Water Walking 101 Series
- A Storm Is Coming
- A Step Of Faith Series
- A Supernatural Walk
- Lord Save Me
- Aftershock
- 2019: Make It A Year Of Miracles

THE INTENT

- In light of Matthew's Gospel, what do you think is the intent of this "story?"
- Is the story about Peter or about Jesus?
- Is Peter's experience simply a means to an end? Are we to think Peter's experience is repeatable and normative? This is foolishness.
- The intent of every text is to show that Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah.

THE CHALLENGE

There are two ways to preach this story from Matthew. And a lot hangs on which one you choose. The first track -- the more familiar of the two -- is to stress Peter's failure. [The second is to see the end and work backward; Jesus is the Son of God]. Much like an AESOP FABLE, the story is there to stress a point. This event happened and is historical, but it is the theology that is primary not the experience. It isn't the sausage casing that is primary, but the meat. I invite you to take the one less traveled, and I promise you that it will make all the difference.

THE KING'S . . .

OUTLINE

- I. The Setting (vv. 22-25)
- II. The Event / Peter Doubts (vv. 26-31)
- III. The Consequence / Disciples Worship (vv. 32, 33)

IV. The Epilogue / Jesus Heals (vv. 34-36)

“IF”

- SATAN [Mt 4:3, 6 - Challenge]
- HIGH PRIEST [Mt 26:63 - Challenge]
- THOSE PASSING BY AT THE CROSS [Mt 27:40 - Challenge]
- CHIEF PRIESTS, SCRIBES, AND ELDERS [Mt 27:43 - Challenge]
- “IF IT IS YOU”

SELDOM do we put Peter in the same category as the Pharisees and Sadducees of Matt. 16:1, but Peter is just like this malignant crowd demanding a sign when “signs” already inundate them.

“SIGN”

“Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee” (Matt. 12:38).

“But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas” (Matt. 12:39).

“The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven” (Matt. 16:1).

“A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed” (Matt. 16:4).

“BELIEVE”

²⁶ “Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.’ ²⁸ Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ ²⁹ Jesus said to him, ‘**Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed**” (John 20:26-29).

“BELIEVE”

⁶ “In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, ⁷ so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ⁸ and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls” (1 Pet. 1:6-9).

SUMMARY

²³ “Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and **healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.** ²⁴ The news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and **He healed them.** ²⁵ Large crowds followed Him from Galilee and the Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and from beyond the Jordan” (Matt. 4:23-25).

²⁸ “When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching; ²⁹ for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes” (Matt. 7:28, 29).

¹⁴ “When Jesus came into Peter's home, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick in bed with a fever. ¹⁵ He touched her hand, and the fever left her; and she got up and waited on Him. ¹⁶ When evening came, **they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill.** ¹⁷ This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: ‘HE HIMSELF TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES AND CARRIED AWAY OUR DISEASES’” (Matt. 8:14-17).

“Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and **healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness**” (Matt. 9:35).

² “Now when John, while imprisoned, heard of the works of Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to Him, ‘Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?’ ⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Go and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ **the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM.** ⁶ And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me’” (Matt. 11:2-6).

²⁰ “**Then He began to denounce the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent.** ²¹ ‘Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes’” (Matt. 11:20, 21).

⁵³ “When Jesus had finished these parables, He departed from there. ⁵⁴ He came to His hometown and began teaching them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, ‘**Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?** ⁵⁵ Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶ And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this man get all these things?’ ⁵⁷ And they took offense at Him. But Jesus said to them, ‘A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household.’ ⁵⁸ And **He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief**” (Matt. 13:53-58).

³⁴ “When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret. ³⁵ And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent word into all that surrounding district and brought to Him all who were sick; ³⁶ and **they implored Him that they might just touch the fringe of His cloak; and as many as touched it were cured**” (Matt. 14:34-36).

QUESTION

- How much more evidence or signs do we need from Him before we believe in Him?
- Based on our current form of Christianity, I might wonder if we actually believe He is the King, the Son of God.
- Perhaps we aren't much different than Peter, the Pharisees, or those who seek after signs and desire to have their bellies full of “magical” bread.
- What does He ask of us? That we believe He is God incarnate, the Savior of sinners and Lord of all Creation.
- What do we ask of Him? We ask Him to heal our diseases and fix our relational problems. What does He offer us? He offers us the forgiveness of sin and victory over the grave. But instead of this being enough, we ask for more.
- Is He able to do these “party tricks?” Absolutely. Should He? Perhaps. But when He does, He is condescending from the mission.
- The fullest and final answer to the curse is the cross. He looks upon us with compassion and heals our sickness, but He came to do more, so much more. The fullest and final answer to the curse is the cross and this He will do.

MIRACLES

“Even if you believe a creator god invented the laws of physics, would you so insult him as to suggest that he might capriciously and arbitrarily violate them in order to walk on water, or turn water into wine as a cheap **party trick** at a wedding?”¹ Richard Dawkins [Noted Atheist/Agnostic]

AUTHORITY

“For he taught them as one having **authority**, and not as the scribes” (Matt. 7:29).

“For I am a man under **authority**, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it” (Matt. 8:9).

“But that ye may know that the Son of man hath [**AUTHORITY**] on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house” (Matt. 9:6).

“But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such [**AUTHORITY**] unto men” (Matt. 9:8).

“And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them [**AUTHORITY**] against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease” (Matt. 10:1).

²³ “And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what **authority** doest thou these things? and who gave thee this **authority**?

²⁴ And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what **authority** I do these things. . . ²⁷ And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what **authority** I do these things” (Matt. 21:23, 24, 27).

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All [**AUTHORITY**] is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (Matt. 28:18).

POWER

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the **power**, and the glory, for ever. Amen” (Matt. 6:13).

“Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many **wonderful works**?” (Matt. 7:22)

“Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of **his mighty works** were done, because they repented not” (Matt. 11:20).

²¹ “Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if **the mighty works**, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. . . ²³ And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: **for if the mighty works**, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day” (Matt. 11:21, 23).

“And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and **these mighty works**?” (Matt. 13:54)

“And he did not many **mighty works** there because of their unbelief” (Matt. 13:58).

“And said unto his servants, This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead; and therefore **mighty works** do shew forth themselves in him” (Matt. 14:2).

“Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the **power** of God” (Matt. 22:29).

“And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with **power** and great glory” (Matt. 24:30).

“Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of **power**, and coming in the clouds of heaven” (Matt. 26:64).

“IF IT IS YOU”

So when Peter says, "If it is you..." (*ei su ei* in the Greek), then he is joining the company of Satan (4:3, 6), the high priest (26:63), and the mockers at the cross (27:40) who all put the same challenge to Jesus. In each case, just like Peter, they want Jesus to do something in order to verify his identity. This is not a good thing.

[*ei*] does not indicate that Satan had doubts of Jesus being the Son of God (Origen, Wolf, Bengel), or was not aware of it (Ignat. Phil. interpol. 9), comp. Matthew 28:20; but **the problematical expression was to incite Jesus to enter upon the unreasonable demand, and to prove Himself the Son of God.**

A weak faith is always wishing for signs and miracles.

THE CHALLENGE

- What more do you need?
- The Pharisees and Sadducees demand a sign yet Jesus has done nothing BUT give signs.
- If you are bent to believe, you will. If you are bent to disbelieve, you will not.

PETER'S PROBLEM

- The problem is not that he sank.
- The problem is that he got out of the boat at all.

GOD CAN

“The real hero in the story is Jesus whom the disciples worship (for the first time in Matthew) as the Son of God. The next time Matthew records that the disciples worship Jesus is when he fantastically appears after his resurrection (28:17).”²

SON OF GOD

“And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, ‘**You are certainly God's Son!**’” (Matt. 14:33).

“Simon Peter answered, ‘**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!**’” (Matt. 16:16).

“While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, ‘**This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!**’” (Matt. 17:5).

QUESTION

What hard thing is God asking of you? What impossible task faces you?

- First, this text isn't about you!
- Second, the impossible "thing" God is asking of you is to believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God!
- Third, do you believe?

QUESTION

The only "boat" God is asking you to get out of is the boat of unbelief in Him and too much belief in you!

YOU CAN'T; GOD CAN; AND JESUS DID!

THE TEACHING

²⁶ "Jesus answered them and said, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. ²⁷ Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal.' ²⁸ Therefore they said to Him, 'What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?' ²⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, '**This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.**' ³⁰ So they said to Him, 'What then do You do for a **sign**, so that we may see, and believe You? What work do You **perform**?' ³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'HE GAVE THEM BREAD OUT OF HEAVEN TO EAT.' ³² Jesus then said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world.' ³⁴ Then they said to Him, 'Lord, always give us this bread.' ³⁵ Jesus said to them, '**I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.** ³⁶ **But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe**'" (John 6:26-36).

THE PROPHET

Listen to HIM

(Matt. 17:5)

- ²⁶ "Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.' ²⁸ Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹ Jesus said to him, '**Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed**'" (John 20:26-29).
- ⁶ "In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, ⁷ so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ⁸ **and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,** ⁹ obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls" (1 Pet. 1:6-9).

BOAT IN GOSPELS

Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
13 [through chap. 15; nothing afterwards]	16 [through chap 8; nothing afterwards]	6 [chaps. 5; 8]	6 [chaps. 6; 21]

SEA IN GOSPELS

Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
16 [throughout]	15 [through chap. 11; nothing afterwards]	3 [2X in 17; 1X in 21]	9 [chaps. 6; 21]

¹ Richard Dawkins [Noted Atheist/Agnostic]

² https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=985