

Vacation Bible School 2020

“Wild About Jesus”

Encounter on the Water
Matthew 14:22-33

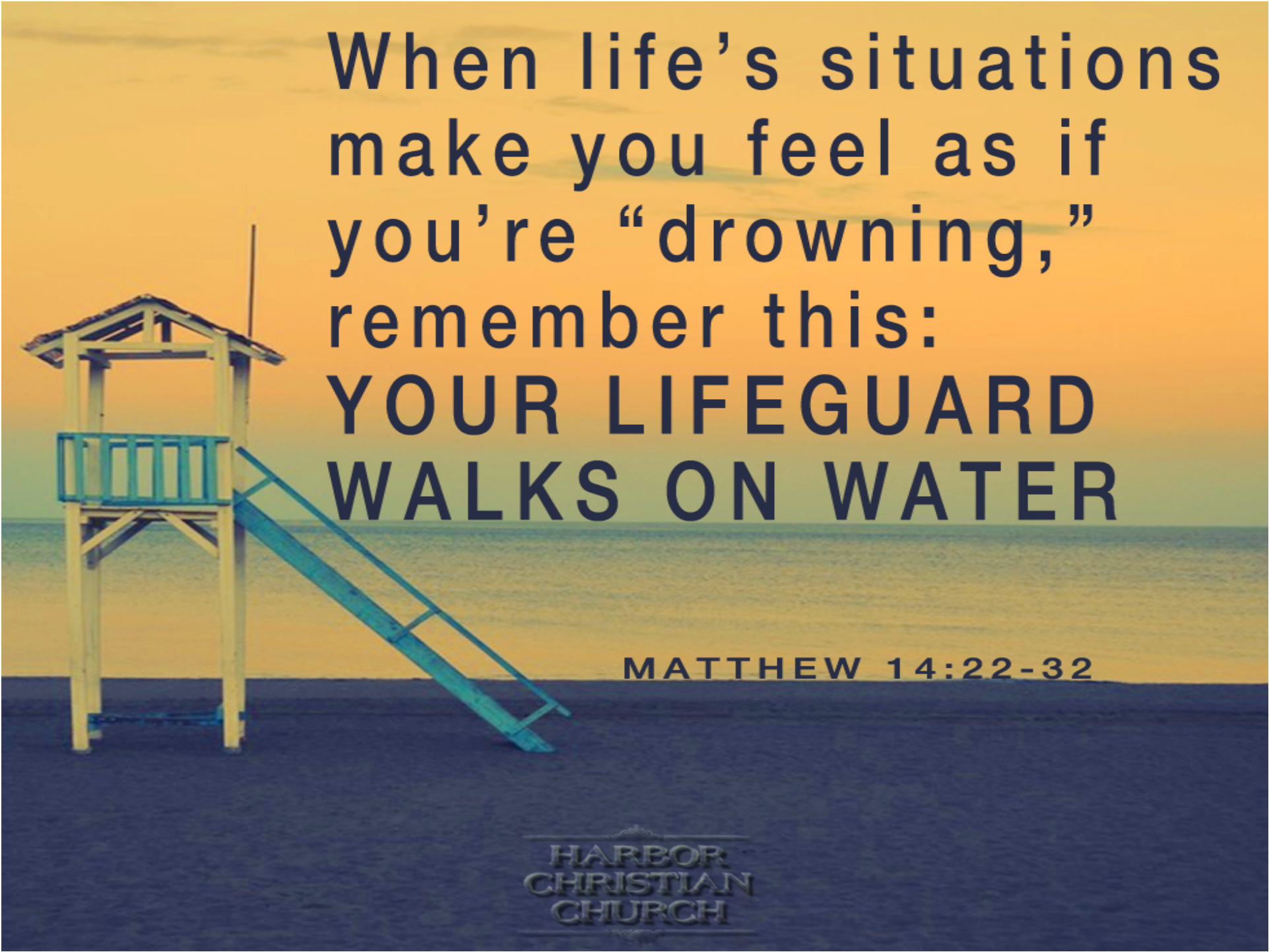
Palestine Missionary Baptist Church of Jesus Christ
Rev. James D. Watkins Sr.

*Each of our lessons across these
three days will focus on life
changing encounters with Jesus.*

*Every lesson will provide a snapshot of
Jesus' life & provided us an opportunity
to respond to the gospel.*

Goals for tonight...

- Review the encounter on the water with Jesus and his disciples
- Identify (9) nine things we learn about going through trials and tribulations as a result of reading Matthew 14:22-33
- Rejoice in knowing that the storms we go through help strengthen us and open our eyes to the power of God

A wooden lifeguard stand with a blue slide is positioned on a dark beach. The background shows a calm sea under a warm, orange and yellow sunset sky. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

When life's situations
make you feel as if
you're "drowning,"
remember this:
**YOUR LIFEGUARD
WALKS ON WATER**

MATTHEW 14:22-32

**HARBOR
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH**

Matthew 14:22-25 (NLT)

- ²² Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. ²³ After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone.
- ²⁴ Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. ²⁵ About three o'clock in the morning^[a] Jesus came toward them, walking on the water.

Matthew 14:26-30 (NLT)

- 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, “It’s a ghost!”
- 27 But Jesus spoke to them at once. “Don’t be afraid,” he said. “Take courage. I am here!^[a]”
- 28 Then Peter called to him, “Lord, if it’s really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water.”
- 29 “Yes, come,” Jesus said.
- So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the strong^[b] wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. “Save me, Lord!” he shouted.

Matthew 14:31-33 (NLT)

- ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. “You have so little faith,” Jesus said. “Why did you doubt me?”
- ³² When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. ³³ Then the disciples worshiped him. “You really are the Son of God!” they exclaimed.

What can we learn about going through storms from Matthew 14:22-36?

- Disciples had seen a lot of great miracles from Jesus
- They had seen Jesus teach, preach, heal the sick, and raise the dead
- But the disciples had still not acknowledged their obedience to Jesus
- Jesus sent his disciples into the storm in this set of verses...there was a reason...displaying his glory as the Son of God

I. Jesus will allow us to go through storms

Verse 22

- Jesus will allow us to go through storms in our lives
- God uses the difficulties that we go through to shape us into his image whether we are obediently following Jesus or living in disobedience
- God also uses those difficulties to remind us of our need for Him and to show us who He truly is

II. Jesus is praying for you

Verse 23

- Jesus was well aware of what his disciples were going through and He is well aware of what we are going through
- We must remember that Jesus is seated at the right hand of God, right now, interceding on our behalf in the midst of whatever we are going through



**I HAVE
PRAYED
FOR YOU.**

Luke 22:32

 **Faith in Motion**

III. Going forward in obedience is always better than going back in disobedience

Verse 24

- At this moment it would have been much easier to turn and go back to shore
- Disciples decided instead to continue in obedience to Jesus' command to go to the other side of the water
- They would have missed what Jesus was doing in the midst of the storm had they decided to go back in disobedience



OBEDIENCE IS BETTER

IV. The presence of God is always near us

Verse 25

- There is never a moment where Jesus is far from the disciples
- The storm that caused the disciples trip to be difficult, had no power over Jesus who walked right through it
- When the time was right, Jesus showed the disciples that the very thing that caused them pain only did so in submission to him

V. Keep your focus on Jesus

Verse 26

- The disciple's focus was on "just getting through the storm."
- But because they were focused on getting through the storm and not on the one that is allowing them to go through the storm, they missed him when he came walking on the sea.
- So when we are in the midst of the storm we have to keep our focus on Jesus, asking the question, "what is God trying to do in and through me in the midst of what I am going through?"



VI. Remember who Jesus is and allow his words to comfort us

Verse 27

- The words that Jesus uses with the disciples to comfort them with his presence are a declaration of his divine nature.
- Jesus is telling the disciples that they have “nothing to fear” because he is God...so he is in **CONTROL**.
- We have to allow the Word of God to be our comfort when we are in those trials.

Memorizing Scripture

- Memorizing scripture gives us the opportunity to remember who God is, what he has done, and what he promises to do.
- The Word of God not only provides comfort to us in the midst of a storm(s), but it also gives us the courage to continue walking in obedience.
- Psalm 34:18, John 16 and Isaiah 40:31

VII. Never allow your storm to cause you to doubt God's goodness or lose faith

Verse 28

- When Peter asked Jesus to give him the power to walk on the water...he truly believed that Jesus could do that.
- It wasn't that Peter lost his faith in Jesus (because he immediately cries out to Jesus) but he doubted that Jesus could sustain him in the storm.
- What does this say about us...Jesus will and can sustain you in the midst of troubles. Your faith will never be perfect, and at times you will doubt, but God is working it out for you. He is in control.

No matter what
you're going
through, God and
his love are right
there with you.

 PASTOR RICK WARREN
DAILY HOPE

VIII. Our storms have the potential to open our eyes to the power of God Verses 31-32

- Peter got to SEE and EXPERIENCE the power of Jesus as he walked in the storm
- When Peter is squeezed by the storm, his doubt is exposed and expelled and replaced with stronger faith and trust in who Jesus is.
- Jesus allows us to go through storms in order to expose where our faith in him is weak and then He strengthens our faith by showing us who he is

IX. Our storms have the potential to open others eyes to the power of God

Verse 33

- Peter's eyes weren't the only ones opened to who Jesus is. All of the disciples eyes were opened as well
- Did you know that your storms are not about you. What you go through is about the "object of your faith." God desires that you **SEE, KNOW, WORSHIP, and GLORIFY** him above all else.
- Other people's eyes will be opened as a result of watching you walk faithfully with God in the midst of troubles, but God can and will use what you go through to help others who are walking thru similar situations

**If it wasn't for the
struggle you
wouldn't have the
strength. God is
always building you
even when it seems
like He's breaking
you.**

