



The Path of Blessed Assurance in Jesus

The Doctrines of Grace

* compressed Web version *



Ken Wilson 2008

Blessed Assurance

Matthew 14:22-33

Context

The feeding of the 5,000 (likely 12,000-15,000) was public and demonstrated the power to provide for both the disciples and any number of people. This next lesson is restricted to the family of believers.



Blessed Assurance

Matthew 14:22-33

Context

The disciples were believers as are we. So the principles are for us.

A disciple or believer then is a disciple or believer now. This is reality that time does not change.



Blessed Assurance

Matthew 14:22-33

Context

We all originate as believers due to the same source and cause.

Ephesians 1:4-6



Blessed Assurance

Matthew 14:22-33

Context

Why is this lesson restricted to just the disciples?

The lesson recorded here concerns the development and perseverance of *existing* faith.

1 Corinthians 1:18



Blessed Assurance

Matthew 14:22-33

Context

It is easiest to see the point of examples when they are demonstrated through large events, but the principles are for all of life.

This is often the case with Biblical lessons that apply to us today.



Blessed Assurance

Matthew 14:22-33

v22 And immediately He made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away.

Obedience to Jesus



Blessed Assurance

Matthew 14:22-33

v23 After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone

Matthew 6:5-6

Time with the Lord

“A good man is never less alone than when alone with God” Matthew Henry



Blessed Assurance

Matthew 14:22-33

v24 But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary.

“Their arms were not more fatigued by rowing than their faith was shaken by grievous terrors.” John Calvin



Blessed Assurance

Matthew 14:22-33

v24 But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary.

“Their arms were not more fatigued by rowing than their faith was shaken by grievous terrors.” John Calvin

After a calm start, our journey can become difficult and threatening. Our response is often like theirs – our faith can weaken.



Blessed Assurance

Matthew 14:22-33

*v25 And in the fourth watch of the night
He came to them, walking on the sea.*

The testing of faith is often extended past initial deliverance.

What is needed and tolerable is according to the Lord, not us. Only He knows our true capacity.

Ours is to trust, holding to Him.



Blessed Assurance

Matthew 14:22-33

v26 When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.

We often start out with calm waters, great faith and boundless enthusiasm. Initial bumps are shrugged off easily. However, with greater distress our faith is sorely tested and we may turn to traditional worldly views for comfort.



Blessed Assurance

Matthew 14:22-33

v27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

Though the Lord strengthens them by His presence He does not calm the storm. He allows them find their feet with His support.

This is absolutely safe because He has stated that we can not be lost from the process. Nothing can take a believer from His grip. John 10:27-30



Blessed Assurance

Matthew 14:22-33

v28 Peter said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

An example of seeking the Lord earnestly despite adversity.



Blessed Assurance

Matthew 14:22-33

v29 And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

No hesitation! When we hear the call, let us also be bold in going to Him.



Blessed Assurance

Matthew 14:22-33

v30 But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

The appropriate response of the believer is the simple call to Christ - simple dependence and trust.



Blessed Assurance

Matthew 14:22-33

v30 But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

Ephesians 6:12



Blessed Assurance

Matthew 14:22-33

v30 But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Yet we have assurance of His grip.

“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:38-39 (also John 10:27-30)



Blessed Assurance

Matthew 14:22-33

v31 Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

Jesus does not let him sink completely. It is totally under the Lord's control. This is how he brings us along as believers – demonstration and correction.



Blessed Assurance

Matthew 14:22-33

v31 Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

“No temptation has seized you except what is **common** to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”

1 Corinthians 10:13



Blessed Assurance

Matthew 14:22-33

v32 When they got into the boat, the wind stopped.

The process of Sanctification is under the Lord's exclusive control, through the Holy Spirit. It allows for the exercise of new levels of faith as acquired, further strengthening them – under the guidance of the Spirit.

Our correct focus is on our connection, the Lord.



Blessed Assurance

Matthew 14:22-33

v33 And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "You are certainly God's Son!"

The appropriate response, as a believer, to the ongoing deliverance and strengthening of the Lord, is simple worship and praise.



Blessed Assurance

Matthew 14:22-33

Numerous principles which are stated elsewhere in Scripture have been demonstrated by the Lord in this set of events.

These principles are for the immediate benefit of the disciples, but apply equally to each of us as believers.



Blessed Assurance

Matthew 14:22-33

1. The Sanctification process is one of learning, but there is never any danger of being lost from His control or grip.

2. The Lord demonstrates, through both the disciples as a group, and Peter as an individual, the learning process in faith.



Blessed Assurance

Matthew 14:22-33

3. In every instance, the Lord is in absolute sovereign control, bringing the individual along at exactly the speed they can handle (in reality, not their perception), and allowing them to gain confidence at each level.

4. No matter what the slip or faltering step on the path, Sanctification functions within the complete sovereign assurance of the outcome.



Blessed Assurance

Matthew 14:22-33

5. Many events occur on our path. Some we understand but most, in the larger sense, we do not. The most important focus for us is on the ‘author and finisher of our faith’ – Jesus.

For us this includes not only Him but the Word.



Blessed Assurance

Matthew 14:22-33

Though each of us may (and surely will) be weak and fearful, as both the disciples and Peter were here, the Lord will surely guide us through the process and home.

Throughout these events He demonstrates absolute sovereignty, holding us securely.

A Blessed Assurance indeed!



Blessed Assurance

Matthew 14:22-33

Where does this fit into the Doctrines of Grace?

1. Total Inability
2. Unconditional Election
3. Particular Atonement
4. Effectual Calling
- 5. Perseverance of the Saints**



Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

