

**Scripture Reference: Matthew 14:22-33**

**Date: January 12, 2014**

**Title: "The Ability of Jesus"**

**Focus: How who Jesus is affects the way His disciples live**

**Intro:**

1. John said this, "there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written" (John 21:25). These were the words that closed out his gospel. So, you ever wonder why the Bible recounts certain events, while leaving others out? Such as including this one of Jesus walking on the water?

2. Being that the Bible is an inspired book, meaning that God is the author behind the human scribes, it's intent and purpose is to reveal Himself to us that we might be drawn to Him. So, what does this account reveal to us about God?

**Body:**

**The Ability of Jesus - vv. 22-26**

Like the disciples that walked with Jesus, most people think they have Jesus figured out.

Then along come some event, like this one, and a person's concept of who Jesus is goes right out the window.

However, as vv. 22-26 shows us, such events do not just happen. Jesus put His disciples in a position where they would encounter Him in a supernatural way.

People are comfortable with an understanding of Jesus that fits into what they are able to understand and comprehend.

But Jesus will not and cannot be defined by what you and I think he is.

Through this event Jesus demonstrates He is more than a man, more than what you and I think Him to be. This event gives a glimpse of the power and capability, even over nature, He possesses.

This encounter with Jesus "terrified" His disciples as what they saw who He is exceeded who they thought Him to be.

If you have not been overwhelmed by Jesus, then I wonder about the nature of your encounters with Him.

## The Ability of Jesus in Those Who Trust Him - vv. 27-29

Who Jesus is, His mighty power and authority, is not without benefit to His followers. For as Peter shows, those who have *faith in Him* can "walk on water" as well.

Because this is not our experience, such a statement makes us uncomfortable as well.

But, it is the testimony of Jesus. Those who place their confidence in Him can experience His power in their lives.

Matthew 28:19-20; "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 'Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'"

Because of who Jesus is, His disciples can change the world, and they did.

Acts 3:2-9; "And a man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he began asking to receive alms. But Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, 'Look at us!' And he began to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, 'I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—walk!' And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. With a leap he stood upright and began to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God."

We fail to heed Jesus' words in our daily living.

John 14:11-14; "*Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.*"

It is easier for people to accept that God doesn't do such things anymore than to admit that maybe we don't believe Him.

James 5:16; "*The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.*"

The Ability of Jesus in Those who Trust Him, and Fail -  
vv. 30-31

Peter was no different than you and I. As the reality of the wind and the waves overwhelmed him, he ceased trusting Jesus and immediately sank.

It is here that many disciples of Jesus choose to live, beneath the waves because of our unbelief.

However, please note, Peter's sinking did not cause Jesus to sink. The lack of belief does nothing to change who Jesus is.

Furthermore, *the moment* Peter called out to Jesus, He was there.

Do we believe this about Jesus?

Lack of Faith in Jesus is not good. It resulted in Peter panicking and getting all wet. But, it did not diminish Jesus *one little bit*.

The instant Peter called out to Jesus, he was once again on top of the waters.

When we begin to sink because of unbelief in Jesus, do we call out to Him, repent?

God does not expect that people will not fail in their relationship with Him. He has made provision for that (1 John 1:9).

What people need to realize is that Jesus is greater than the disciple's lack of faith and fears. He is capable of overcoming them and working through a person despite them.

**Closing:**

1. This account testifies of the ability of Jesus. Is is capable, whatever the situation.
2. Even if that situation involves use frail and incapable people.
3. What keeps you from putting your faith in Him?