

Are You Beginning to Sink?

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 14:25-33

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Through a Christian's life, there are many obstacles and distractions. At times, these obstacles and distractions can become weights, causing us to sink into a world of sin.
- B. There is a Bible story of an apostle of Jesus Christ who was distracted and who, therefore, began to sink into the waters of doubt. This story is of Peter.
- C. With this sermon, we will give consideration to five lessons seen within this story.

I. LESSONS FROM PETER'S TIME ON THE WATER.

- A. Peter's temperament put him in this dangerous situation. He often acted impetuously.
 - 1. Peter hastily rushed into Jesus' tomb. (John 20:1-6; John 18:10-11)
 - 2. Peter drew his sword in the garden of Gethsemane. (Matthew 26:51)
 - 3. Peter quickly declared that he would never deny the Lord. (Matthew 26:35)
- B. Peter began to sink in familiar waters.
 - 1. Peter was a fisherman by trade. Perhaps he knew the waters upon which Jesus walked.
 - 2. While in the high priest's palace, Peter began to sink. (Matthew 26:69-75) While he was a stranger, the cause for which he was to stand was familiar.
 - 3. Judas went down in familiar waters.
 - 4. The majority of Christians who sink go down in familiar waters. Very few take up new habits which cause them to sink; it is a going back to their old ways. (cf. Ephesians 4:20-24)
- C. Peter began to sink when he looked the wrong way.
 - 1. Peter looked at the boisterous winds when he should have kept his eyes on the Lord.
 - 2. There were others in the Bible who looked in the wrong direction.
 - a. Eve. (Genesis 3:6)
 - b. Lot. (Genesis 13:10)

- c. Lot's wife. (Genesis 19:26)
3. The psalmist knew the importance of not putting anything wicked before his eyes. (Psalms 101:3; cf. Job 31:1 – covenant with his eyes not to look upon another woman.)
- D. Peter began to sink after loyal discipleship.
 1. Peter had been loyal and sincere; he loved the Lord.
 2. However, Peter's faith began to weaken. (Matthew 14:31)
 3. Many loyal disciplines have allowed their faith to become weakened at times. Consider the case of Demas. (2 Timothy 4:10)
- E. Peter asked the Lord to save him.
 1. Peter did not call upon the other apostles. They could not save him.
 2. Peter recognized the Lord's power to save.
 - a. Salvation comes through Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:9-10)
 - b. Salvation comes through the word of the Lord. (Mark 16:15-16; Romans 1:16)
 - c. If a Christian sins, then he must repent and turn back to the Lord. (1 John 1:8 – 2:2)

CONCLUSION.

- A. Far too often, Christians have done as Peter and looked away from the Lord. When saints look away from the Lord to the sin and worries of the world, their faith in the Lord begins to weaken.
- B. Let us all do our best to keep our eyes always upon the Lord. For those who are not Christians, it is time now to look to the Lord and follow His instructions unto salvation.

Are You Beginning to Sink?

Adapted from a sermon by Leroy Brownlow, "Beginning to Sink," Seed for the Sower, pg 151) –

October 11 , 2009 – File #: 2059

Preached at the Seminole Pointe church of Christ in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma