

Text— Matthew 14:22-33

Fellow redeemed sinners, redeemed by the blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Just prior to our Scripture selection, the miracle is related of Jesus feeding a multitude of 5,000 men, plus numerous women and children, with five loaves and two fishes. The miracle certainly proved that Jesus is not only a man, but that He is also true and very God. Indeed, every miracle Jesus did testifies to the fact He is divine and not merely human.

Therefore, realize that when false prophets and false books teach that Jesus was simply a great man similar to Confucius or Mohamed, such teaching is blasphemous. Jesus is perfect man AND true God, but one Christ. Other founders of religions are simply sinful human beings, while JESUS CHRIST IS SINLESS MAN PLUS TRUE AND VERY GOD. It's as Hebrews 4:15 relates concerning Jesus, our great high Priest, "we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Colossians 2:9 adds, "in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."

Realize that Jesus could never save anyone other than Himself if He was ONLY a sinless man. Jesus also had to be true God in order that His perfect keeping of the Law might be sufficient for all people, and in order that His life and death might be sufficient ransom for our redemption, and in order that He might be able to overcome death and the devil for us. Every naturally conceived human being needs the Savior, Jesus Christ, for Romans 3:23 and 6:23 informs us in no uncertain terms, "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; [and,] the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Accordingly, it is vital for everyone to know the REAL Jesus Christ – the Christ of the Holy Bible – as his or her personal Savior and Lord, for Acts 4:12 states, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven

given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Unfortunately, we live in a day and age in which many churches deny the deity of Jesus Christ and the authority of the pure preserved Holy Scriptures. Such churches have a "fully human" Jesus to give people— that is, they have a false Christ which they proclaim.

Accordingly, we can all benefit from being reinforced in the truth as we ponder our sermon text which definitely shows us:

"JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD"

With that as our theme, may we, in view of our text and with the help of the Holy Ghost, see—

- 1) What are some ways Jesus demonstrated He is the Son of God
- 2) Why we all need to know Jesus is the Son of God
- 3) How we are to show we know Jesus is the Son of God

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Verses 22 & 23, ----- (Matthew 14:22-23)

It was as evening drew on after Jesus miraculously fed the 5,000 that *straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.*

The reason Jesus compelled or commanded His disciples to get into a ship and depart is evident when we consider what the people who had eaten of the miracle-meal desired to attempt, for we read in John 6:14-15, "Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world. When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone." Yeah, Jesus knew that after the people's bellies were full without them having to work for their daily bread, "they would come and take him

by force, to make him a king.” They wanted an earthly king, a bread king! Furthermore, Jesus’ disciples did not always have a right outlook concerning Christ and His Kingship, for after Jesus’ death and bodily resurrection, before His visible ascension, Acts 1:6 reports, “When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?” You see, they too had the desire for an earthly kingdom; hence, it was very wise that after the feeding of the 5,000, *straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.* The fact that Jesus always knew exactly what was on people’s minds, including His disciples, demonstrates Jesus is the Son of God.

Notice what Jesus did after He had constrained His disciples to get into a ship and cross the lake before Him, for our text informs us that *when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.* Evening came on about 6:00 P.M. and Jesus began to pray to His heavenly Father around that hour.

Verses 24 & 25, -----. (Matthew 14:24-25)

Jesus’ disciples were in the ship on the Sea of Galilee, *But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.* The parallel account in Mark 6:48 relates that the disciples were “toiling in rowing” as they fought against the wind and waves. So, it was quite the storm that had come upon those sea waters.

Interestingly, it was *the fourth watch of the night*, between 3:00 A.M. and 6:00 A.M., when *Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.* Thus, Jesus had been alone on the mountain praying to His heavenly Father for some nine to twelve hours. Such a lengthy prayer-time indicates a very close and special relationship— a relationship which demonstrates Jesus is the Son of God.

Fellow Christians, Galatians 4:4-6 tells us, “when

the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.” Hence, Jesus Christ is the Son of God, God’s only-begotten Son, God’s natural Son; on the other hand, all Christians are God’s adopted sons. We Christians are privileged to have Jesus’ Holy Spirit dwelling in us urging us to pray to our heavenly Father. Let us therefore follow Jesus’ fine example of taking time alone to pray to God the Father.

Looking again at verse 25 of our text we especially note that *in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.* Oh, no mere man can walk on the waters of a raging sea. Thus, Jesus demonstrated He is the Son of God— THE SON of GOD with a capital “S” and a capital “G”; yes, Jesus is not only true man, Jesus is true and very God.

Verses 26 & 27, -----. (Matthew 14:26-27)

The disciples were a bit scared when they saw Jesus walking on the water since they did not recognize Him at a distance; they thought they were seeing a spirit, an apparition, a ghost. Nevertheless, what they were seeing was Jesus Christ the God-man, walking on the wind-tossed waters of the Sea of Galilee. So, as the disciples cried out in fear, without delay *Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.*

Realize Jesus demonstrated He is the Son of God by immediately relieving the fears of His trembling disciples. My friends, let us never forget that when we are fearful, Jesus can relieve all of our fears, and He desires to do so.

Verses 28 & 29, -----. (Matthew 14:28-29)

Peter was never bashful; that’s for sure. Peter did believe that Jesus Christ was his Lord, the Son of God, for he addressed Jesus, saying: *Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.* And

notice Jesus' answer and what followed: *he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.* Thus, what happened indeed demonstrated Jesus is the Son of God, for no mere man could empower Peter to walk on water.

Verses 30-32, -----. (Matthew 14:30-32)

While Peter's focus was on Jesus Christ, all was well. However, when Peter turned his eyes and attention to the howling wind, he began to sink. But thankfully, Peter remembered where to find ready help, for turning his attention back to Jesus, *he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.*

Accordingly, we see Jesus again demonstrated He is the Son of God by saving Peter from drowning and causing the ferocious wind to cease and the sea to calm.

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As we continue to ponder our sermon text, let us see why we all need to know Jesus is the Son of God.

Let's look again at verses 27-32, -----.
(Matthew 14:27-32)

Notice that knowing Jesus is the Son of God gives cheer and removes fear, just as was evident once Jesus spoke to His fearful disciples when they beheld Him walking on the troubled waters of the Sea of Galilee.

My friends, we all have storms to go through in this world— emotional storms when we face numerous troubles and temptations. Think about it. Sicknesses and diseases may trouble us; or, perhaps we may face financial difficulties; or, as we age it becomes harder to accomplish mental and physical tasks which we once did with ease.

Whatever the case may be, we need to remember that Jesus, the Son of God, says to us, as He said to His troubled disciples of old, *Be of good cheer... be not afraid.*

It's as Jesus bids in Matthew 11:28, where He urges, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Yes, fellow Christians, it's as Jesus assures His followers in John 16:33, where He says, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." Accordingly, we ALL need to know Jesus is the Son of God because He is the ONLY Savior from all things hurtful, sin and every evil; yea, Jesus Christ, God's Son, is the ONLY SAVIOR from never-ending doom and death in hell, for John 3:16-18 clearly states, "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." Let us therefore know Jesus is the Son of God; and, let us cling to Him in sincere heart-deep faith as our personal Savior and Lord.

Fellow Christians, take it to heart that Jesus proved He is the Son of God by His divine power on many occasions, not the least of which is His own bodily resurrection from the dead after three days in the grave subsequent to His dying for the sins of the world on the cross of Calvary where He shed His holy blood in full payment for all the sins of all people. Prior to Jesus' supreme sacrifice of Himself, He – the Son of God – said, as recorded in John 10:11, 17, & 18, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father." Accordingly, we all need to know Jesus is the Son of God because it is a fact; and,

Jesus gave His life into death in order that we might live eternally. Jesus suffered the pains of never-ending death in hell itself while nailed to the accursed tree of the cross, so that we would not need to personally experience the never-ending death of hell when we depart this life. Yes, if we behold Jesus the Son of God with the eyes of faith, we, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." (John 1:29) When we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ – the Son of God – we personally receive the forgiveness of sins and salvation, for John 3:36 plainly states, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." Let us cling to Christ in heart-deep faith, knowing Jesus is the Son of God.

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As we ponder our sermon text to its conclusion, let us see how we are to show we know Jesus is the Son of God.

Let's look again at verses 28 & 29, -----.
(Matthew 14:28-29)

Peter knew Jesus is the Son of God, for Peter rightly addressed Jesus as "Lord." Fellow Christians, we show we know Jesus is the Son of God when we in honesty address Him as our Lord. Let us be like David the Psalmist who prayed, as recorded in Psalm 31:1, "In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness." Oh, David knew the Christ as his Lord, for David wrote in Psalm 110:1, "The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool." David knew that although the Messiah would be his own descendant according to the flesh, the Messiah would also be TRUE GOD; yes, David knew the Savior, his Savior, Jesus the Christ, would be the Son of God and not only the Son of man. Therefore, let each and every one of us show we know Jesus is the Son of God by heartily confessing Him as our LORD.

Notice in verse 29 of our text that Peter obeyed the Lord Jesus, for Jesus *said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.* Fellow Christians, we know Jesus is the Son of God; hence, we should show we know Jesus is the Son of God by striving to obey His commands as given in His Word, the Holy Bible. For example, Jesus commands His followers in Matthew 28:19-20, saying, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Accordingly, holy baptism is NOT to be despised, but is to be prized; and, ALL DOCTRINES of Holy Scripture are to be taught and observed, for by doing so we thereby show we know Jesus is the Son of God, our Lord and Savior.

Verses 30 & 31, ----- (Matthew 14:30-31)

We show we know Jesus is the Son of God when we cry to Him in prayer, as did Peter, addressing Him as LORD and trusting Him to save us. My friends, we all sin daily, "For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not," declares Ecclesiastes 7:20. Nevertheless, Jesus our Lord and Savior is ready and willing to forgive us; therefore, we should daily and sincerely call upon the Lord Jesus Christ to save us, knowing that He will do so even though we are of little faith so often. Let us never forget that a little faith is still saving faith as long as its object is the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Verses 32 & 33, ----- (Matthew 14:32-33)

Think about the situation as the disciples – many of whom were experienced fishermen on that body of water – were frightened by the wind and the waves, and then they saw Jesus walking toward them on the water, thinking He was a spirit, an apparition, a ghost. Jesus then identifies Himself; Peter joins Jesus on the water after Jesus bids Him; Peter begins to doubt and starts to sink; Jesus stretches forth His hand and saves Peter; *And*

when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.

The raging waves and wind suddenly ceased as soon as Jesus and Peter joined the others in the ship. The disciples know that only divine power could so immediately stop the violence of wind and wave; and so, *they that were in the ship came and worshipped Jesus, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.*

The disciples did right when they worshiped Jesus and confessed to Him that He is in truth the Son of God. Fellow Christians, we too should show we know Jesus is the Son of God by worshiping Him and confessing Him in truth as the Son of God.

Let us daily and sincerely repent of our sins. Let us cling to Christ Jesus in heart-deep faith as our personal Savior and Lord, having no doubts that Jesus is the Son of God, "the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14) Amen.

m.e.l.