

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Matthew 14:22-33.**
- B. Our story this morning should be a familiar one to many.
- C. Peter did the impossible when we walked on the water. However, let us take note this morning that before he could do that, Peter had to get out of the boat.
- D. When Peter doubted, Jesus told him to get out of the boat!

I. CHRISTIANS NEED TO GET OUT OF THE BOAT.

- A. Getting out of the boat changes the way we see things. It is easier to talk about doing something than doing it.
- B. No one likes back seat drivers, arm-chair quarterbacks, movie critics who never acted.
- C. Some people are "boat rockers." Instead of working in and on the boat, they cause trouble and rock the boat making everything unstable. There is a difference between a weaker brother and a trouble maker.
- D. Some people don't want the boat rocked at all. These kinds of individuals resist change, procedural analysis. Xians should always be ready for change if it does not violate the scriptures.
- E. Getting out of the boat means walking by faith. No one ventures out of the boat "by sight." Walking on the water was an act of faith by Peter and miracle by JC. We are to walk by faith, or rely on the power of Jesus (2Cor. 5:7).
for we walk by faith, not by sight--

II. WHY DID PETER ASK TO GET OUT OF THE BOAT?

- A. Maybe, because (1st) **Peter wasn't satisfied with being in the boat.**
 - 1. People are too satisfied with their lives to know of their need for X.
 - 2. Xians are sometimes too satisfied in the church.
 - 3. Xians should never feel comfortable with being common or mediocre.
 - 4. You will never walk by faith as long as you are satisfied with your spirituality.
- B. Maybe, because (2nd) **Peter had a desire to be with Jesus.**
 - 1. Ready to leave the "safety" of the boat, Peter saw greater peace, comfort, and faith in being with Jesus.
 - 2. The challenge of the Xian life is to be like Christ. To do that we must come out of our "comfort zone."
- C. Maybe, because (3rd) **Peter wasn't afraid to try and fail.**
 - 1. The fear of failure is something that can keep us from doing right and doing good.
 - 2. Protecting our pride is a full-time business! Dreamers and planners can make us uncomfortable.
 - 3. The 1-talent man was a failure because he did not try. When Peter sank, Jesus pulled him up. Therefore, we should not fear failure either.
 - 4. Success is ultimately guaranteed with Jesus.
- D. Maybe, it was that (4th) **Peter didn't listen to those on the boat.**
 - 1. Peter didn't listen to the voices of men, but to God in the flesh.
 - 2. Men can criticize and discourage, but "with God all things are possible."
 - 3. Remember, dogs don't chase parked cars! Some people shoot at anything that moves.
 - 4. Don't listen to those set in their ways, and not in Jesus.

III. WHEN ARE WE GOING TO GET OUT OF THE BOAT?

- A. When are we going to get out of the boat and...
 - 1. Follow Jesus?

2. Begin to work and serve?
 3. Do more than just attend services?
 4. Forget our failures and words of men?
 5. Not be satisfied with the status quo?
- B. My challenge to you this morning is to get out of the boat of complacency, mediocrity and unfaithfulness. Jesus says “come”!

CONCLUSION & INVITATION.

- A. Lastly, I wonder about the trip back to the boat; Jesus and Peter. I bet Peter never stopped looking at Jesus or holding His hand. When they got back those left on the boat worshipped Jesus.
- B. Peter had changed the lives of those on the boat for better because he got out of the boat and went to Jesus.
- C. Change your life for the better, and get out of the boat of your life!
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.