



Title | The Perceive-Believe Gap

Text | Matthew 14:22-33

By | Todd Mathis

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Sermon Notes

²²Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

²⁸And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Matthew 14:27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

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For Reflection & Application:

Monday:

- Read Matthew 14 and observe the beliefs and perspectives of the Twelve.

Tuesday:

- Did the Twelve comprehend the ministry of Jesus to the Five-Thousand in Bethsaida (Matthew 14:13-21)? With circumstances in your own life, ask God for help to see the circumstances from a “what is God doing here” perspective rather than what I want to see happen perspective.

Wednesday:

- Read Matthew 14:22-24. Are there circumstances in your own life where you are working hard to achieve a result apart from trusting God and joining in with what He is doing?

Thursday:

- Look at Matthew 14:27-31. Are there circumstances in your own life where you began to trust Christ, and you encountered more difficulty? Did you back away and retreat based on what you were seeing, or did you continue forward believing in God’s righteous purpose in the situation?

Friday:

- Think through Matthew 14:33. Are you growing in your affection and adoration of who God is? Do you continue to appreciate His work in your life? Are you continuing to become more and more enamored with the love of God for you and His eternal loving commitment to you? If you struggle in growing in your affection for Him, start with Psalm 1 and read a Psalm each day to look for His love and protection for you.

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