



POINTS THAT POINT TO THE RIGHT ONE

WJM Sermon Preparation

Matthew 14:30

Baptist Ministers of Houston and Vicinity

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But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me (Matthew 14:30)

There are only two concerns in a sermon: Christ and you. Are you going to trust in Him or rely on yourself? The issue is how can I walk after Christ, responding even in moments of crisis like Christ?

In my observation, listening to many of the preachers today, there seems to be the lack of a THEOLOGICAL CORE; that is, the lack of a CORE KNOWLEDGE about the character and nature of God. You got to see God moving in the text. And if you don't know God when you see Him, you will mistake Him for someone else. Every look at a text ought to be a glimpse at God's glory. This will always minimize me and maximize Him. Every passage is to expose the need for greater focus on God and greater faith in God. If you point to men, your sermon is dead, but if it points to Christ your sermon has life, power, deliverance, healing and help.

The power of the preacher is in humble obedience. The first prayer in this passage is not the shortest *"Lord help me"* but the first prayer in this narrative is *"Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water."* A preacher that doesn't pray *"Bid me to come"* is going to struggle... because you can't even get out of the boat.

That's not only the prayer of the preacher, but the aim of the sermon is to get every individual to pray this prayer... *Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee...*

Preaching today is full of so much stuff that won't help. And I'm not talking about the antics: touch three people and slap two and kick one. I'm talking about something far worse: this pseudo-educational humanistic non-sense that masquerades as some kind of elite knowledge about God. While preaching is bright, bold, and brazen, it is also broken, humble, and inviting. You cannot say to others "God saved me and has helped me," without a brokenness and a humility.

Here are the questions... Where is God/Christ in your sermonic points? Where am I (the hearer) located in relationship to Christ right now? And what

must I do to draw nearer to Him? "Lord, if this is your word, being preached by this man, if this is the truth Lord *...if it be thou, bid me come unto thee...*"

This is what your points must speak to...

- 1) What does God want in HIS HOLINESS?
- 2) What do we lack DUE TO SIN?
- 3) What has God provided to remedy this IN CHRIST?

I'm looking for this in the text. I'm presenting this in the big idea of the sermon, and particularly, in the sub-points that support the big idea.

LET'S LOOK AT THIS VERSE...

But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me (Matthew 14:30)

TITLE: Keep Looking at Jesus (*Simple Title*)

BIG IDEA: It is important to stay focused on Christ (*Clear Thesis*)

NOTE: Preaching must boil down to the **fundamental and principle truths** within the perimeters of the scriptures. The points of a sermon are developed from seeing the fundamental theological truths of the scripture (broad) in this text (narrow). **RESTATED:** Our "points," as it were, are 1) principles (laws) of wisdom 2) drawn from the life of the periscope, 3) fenced in by the panoply of biblical theology (i.e. nothing beyond the bible.)

POINTS:

#1**FAITH:** Focus on Christ enables you to do the will of God (Transcends the **LAW** of the wind and the waves.)

#2**DEVOTION:** Christ wants to be your only focus no matter what's going on around us. (The Law of God is kept not but **EFFORT** but by transformed **NATURE** in simply following Christ, the Law-keeper.)

#3 **BOLDNESS:** Thorough focus on Christ displaces fear in any storm.

#4 **FEAR:** Not maintaining focus on Christ subjects you to the elements of the storm (Subject you to the **LAW** of the wind and waves.)... fear (doubt), falsities (winds), and failure (sinking) - Everything is fighting your against faith (confidence in Christ Jesus.)

#5 **DOUBT:** Devoting one's self to Christ will inevitably expose some doubt in you.

#6 **PRAYER:** In our doubting and sinking moments we can cry out to Christ.

READ YOURSELF FULL, WRITE YOURSELF CLEAR, PRAY YOURSELF HOT AND GO PREACH JESUS