

“Keeping Our Heads Above Water”

Matthew 14:22-33

INTRODUCTION: *A preacher just can't please everyone...*

- I. WALKING ON WATER: Trying to Keep Our Heads Above Water
 - A. We make many attempts today to “keep our heads above water”
 - B. Peter can certainly relate (Matthew 14:28-30)
 - C. *The Sea* is a common Biblical symbol of trouble or an enemy (for example, Psalm 18:16-17)
 - D. I've actually written a book on the topic: *God's Battle with the Sea*
 - E. Recall what Jesus did on & with the sea and also – Revelation 21:1!
 - F. What is the “sea” in your life today: (Note Peter in Matthew 14:31)

- II. WALKING ON WATER: A Call to New Obedience
 - A. A word of challenge (especially to us Lutherans)
 - B. We are strong on *justification* & weak on *sanctification*
 - C. That is, we talk a lot about *getting right* with God, but not a lot about *obedience*
 - D. But note Jesus' interaction with Peter (vv. 28-29)
 - E. **Eliza's words to Professor Higgins in My Fair Lady:**
Don't talk, show me!!
 - F. What Jesus did on the cross both forgives us & empowers us
 - G. Jesus' words to Peter empowers & encourages us (vv. 25-33)
 - H. **The Full Gospel:** Jesus risen for us & the Holy Spirit living in us.
 - I. The point is NOT – you must walk on water like Peter, so try harder
The point IS – *Jesus conquers the “seas” in our lives & empowers us to do the same*

CONCLUSION:

The fable of the birds; wings are not burdens but blessings.

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