

Breaking free from our Comfort Zones Mt 14

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, May 25th

We're prone to choose paths that are forged for our comfort/convenience. No one ever accomplished much for God on the well-worn paths of comfort. God doesn't call us to comfort, but to consecration & commitment! Since Transformation seldom takes place on the comfortable paths; Faith is developed on "divine detours!"

Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Gideon, Elijah, Esther, Peter, Paul, and JESUS all chose to Follow God's will, which led through difficult paths! Jesus calls us to break away from our "comfort zones" and follow him on paths that will produce Transformation. (Mt 4:19)

Scott Peck (The Road Less Travelled) observed: *"Our finest moments are likely to occur when we're feeling deeply uncomfortable, unhappy, or unfulfilled. In such moments, propelled by our discomfort, we're likely to step out of our ruts and start searching for different and truer answers."*

Before the Disciples would be able to *"turn the world upside down"* (Acts 17:6), they would have to follow Christ down paths that would turn their faith "inside out!"

Part of this transformation process is recorded for us in Mk 6 & Mt 14.

These events transpire after returning from great mission/ministry trip. (Mark 6:7-13)

The experiences of these chapters reflect our own faith journey (1 Cor 10:11)

Jesus intentionally led them through circumstances which challenged them to press on to transformational faith, refined and demonstrated by their choices to Trust and Obey (aka: follow) him:

1. In spite of Disappointments.

A. Mt 13 closes with the rejection of Jesus by the people of Nazareth. Vs 53-58

- 1) This was at least his second attempt to reach them. (Luke 4:16-30)
- 2) Their faithlessness limited God! Mt 13:58 (See Ps. 78:41)

B. Mt 14 opens with the murder of John the Baptist. (Mt 14:1-12)

- 1) What might they have been thinking about? *(Some of them had been John's disciples!)*
- 2) What were they expecting? Mark 6:31,32) What did they find?

C. They retreat but find that 5000 + followed them with more demands. Mt 14:13-15

D. Jesus tells them to feed them! Vs 16-18 *"They need not depart; give ye them to eat."*

- 1) In their exhaustion they make excuses. Vs 17, Jn 6:9
- 2) They forgot who they worked for (& with!) Mt 14:18 *"He said, Bring them hither to me."*
- 3) Jesus prayerfully and patiently partnered with the weary disciples. Vs 19
- 4) They experienced the joy and blessing of participating in another miracle. (20,21)

2. In spite of Doubts Vs 22 *"straightway Jesus constrained (Anagkaz'ō: forced) his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away."*

A. Why use such a strong word?

- 1) Most of these men knew the sea!

Trust and Obey (aka: follow) Christ

3. In Spite of Delays. Vs 23

*"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."*

A. Why a mountain? Perspective? (Perhaps see the boat)

B. Why to pray?

1) Who was he praying for?

2) Why was he praying? Remember he "rebuked" the storm in Mt 8. (See Lk 22:31,32)

4. In Spite of Disasters! Vs 24

A. What? *"But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves:"*

B. Why? *"For the wind was contrary."* (Enanti'os: hostile) (Remember Mt 8!)

C. When? 25 *"And in the fourth watch of the night (3-6 AM)*

D. Who? 25 *"Jesus went unto them walking on the sea" (Through their disaster!)*

**Conclusion: Are you willing to Follow Jesus, in spite of your:
Disappointments? Doubts? Delays? Disasters?**

**"The easy roads are crowded, and the level roads are jammed;
The pleasant little rivers, with the drifting folks are crammed,
But off yonder where it's rocky, where you get a better view,
You will find the ranks are thinning, and the travelers there are few.
"Where the going's smooth and pleasant, you will always find the throng,
For the many, (What a pity); seem to like to drift along.
But the steps that call for courage, and the task that's hard to do,
In the end results in glory, for the never-wavering few."
(Messick)**

Application: Dreams Die in Comfort Zones!

What might we miss if we fail to follow Christ on "The Road Less Traveled?"

**Mt 4:19 *"Follow me (Our Part), and I will make you (God's Part) fishers of men!"*
(Our calling)**

If we are willing to do our part, We can be assured God will do His!

**Phil. 2:13 *"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do
of his good pleasure."***

Phil. 4:13 *"I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me"*