



Sunday, March 15, 2020

Pastor Don Denyes

## **Intro to Matthew 14:22-33**

It is unfortunate that debates about God's sovereignty among Christians often miss the aim of the Bible's teaching on the subject. More often than not, God's sovereignty is expressed in Scripture not as a way to define its scope relative to our free will, but rather it is there to comfort His people. Theology is never meant to be fodder for cold or unfeeling debate. The truths about God revealed in Scripture are for us to know Him more deeply. This is precisely what is being taught in Matthew 14.

Jesus knew that sending the disciples out in the boat would put them in a precarious position, and yet He had a purpose in doing that. He wanted to demonstrate His power in the midst of our weakness so that we could find comfort and put our trust in Him rather than in our own strength. So, as we think about the current situation, let's remember that we ought not rely on our own strength or our own wisdom, as those things will fail us in the long term anyway. Rather, let us learn to depend on God's sovereign grace and find rest for our souls in Him.

### **Context**

The Book of Matthew has a lot to teach us about Jesus's authority. From the very beginning, we learn that He is the Christ, the Son of David (1:1). This means that He is the One that God promised long ago who would reign not only over the people of Israel but over the entire world as God's appointed king. The book ends on a similar note as Jesus gathers His disciples for one final conversation, and He begins by informing them that all authority has been given to Him in heaven and on earth (28:18). All throughout the rest of the book, Matthew tells the story of Jesus in such a way that we really come to understand His authority and—specifically in our passage—how His authority is our comfort in the midst of trials.

**Read and Reflect** *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Matthew 14:22-33

“Walking with Jesus in the midst of the Storm”

1. The Plan of Jesus
2. The Prayers of Jesus
3. The Presence of Jesus
4. The Patience of Jesus

## Discuss

- 1) How confident have you been in God's sovereignty over this coronavirus situation?
  
- 2) Read Romans 8:34 and Hebrews 7:25. How does knowing that Jesus is interceding for us in prayer impact your ability to endure trials here and now?
  
- 3) In some ways it has become a Christian platitude to say that Jesus is always with us, but it really is true! (See Matt. 28:20). Why might it be difficult for someone to trust this promise?
  
- 4) Have you been impatient with anyone or anything related to the coronavirus situation? Why do you think that is?
  
- 5) How does knowing the patience of Jesus and His purpose in sending us out "into the storm" impact the way you approach this situation?