

No Child Left Behind **Matthew 14:22-33**  
 Saint Marks UMC, Charleston, WV – 8th Sunday after Pentecost (August 7,) 2011

<sup>22</sup> Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. <sup>23</sup>And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup>but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land; for the wind was against them. <sup>25</sup>And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. <sup>26</sup>But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup>But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

<sup>28</sup> Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' <sup>29</sup>He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. <sup>30</sup>But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' <sup>31</sup>Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' <sup>32</sup>When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. <sup>33</sup>And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

✦ **Try** to stand

Correct them

“**Start** to stand”

✦ One interpretation – **WE Must Have Faith to GET OUT OF THE BOAT AND WALK ON WATER**

✦ **We get locked into our own interpretations, because it is what we are used to, what we expect.**

*Mrs Atwater-Smith's servant Pat, whom she discovered when she returned home early one evening. ... (YBR p. 129)*

✦ Alternate interpretation: When Peter really doubted... **“if it is you, command me to walk to the water on you....”**

And when Peter really believed – **in his need – going under the water**

✦ Satanic "if" **e.g.s**

✦ Kids trying to fly like superman **some 100's**

✦ Have you ever seen anybody walk on water? That's a **problem with the one interpretation** – **it tries to get us to believe something as necessary for us to be a Christian.**

⌘ Typical sermon **turns "if" back on us** –“If you’re a good Christian, you will get out of the boat.” In other words, “**PROVE YOU ARE A GOOD CHRISTIAN.**”

⌘ 16% vital congregations?!

- Reminds me of the [Jules Pfeiffer story](#):
- “When I was a little kid, I didn't want to be me. I wanted to be like [Billy Whittleton](#) andd Billey didn't even like me. I walked like he walked; I talked like he talked. I signed up for the same high school classes he signed up for. But, that was wehn Billy Whittleton changed. He began to hang out with [Herbie Vanderman](#). And it dawned on me that Herbie Vanderman walked and talked like [Joey Hamerlin](#). And Joey Hamerlin walked and talked like [Corky Fabinson](#). So, here I was, walking and talking like Billy Whittleton's imitation of Herbie Vanderman's version of Joey Hamelin trying to walk and talk like Corky Fabinson. And who do you think Corky Fabinson is always walking and talking like? Of all people, dopey [Kenny Wellington](#), that little pest who keeps trying to imitate me ...” (YBR, p. 85”)

⌘ **John 21:1-7:** Peter diving in when he didn't doubt -not superman-just me.

⌘ The tragedy of Jesus' life is that people didn't accept him because He didn't live up to their expectations. He does not repeat the mistake with us.

⌘ Jesus loves us just as we are. He wants to bring us ALL along- not just the super dudes

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.