**Step Out on the Water**

*Matthew 14:22-33*

**Impetuous Peter**

* Told Jesus He would not suffer after Jesus explained He had to.
  + ***“Get behind me Satan!” – Matthew 16:23***
* Said he would not deny Christ – Matthew 26:35
  + ***“Peter said to Him, ‘Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!’” (Matthew 26:35).***
  + He denied Christ – **Matthew 26:69-75**
* Cut off servant of the high priest’s ear – **John 18:10**
  + ***“So Jesus said to Peter, ‘Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My father has given Me?’” (John 18:11).***

**Courageous and Zealous Peter**

* **Matthew 14:22-33**
  + **We often highlight and emphasize Peter’s lack of faith.**
    - **Jesus rightly admonished Him for that.**
  + **However, Peter did something that the other disciples either didn’t think to do, or didn’t have the courage to do – he stepped out on the water**

**Introduction**

1. Christianity is a proactive religion.
2. Some hesitate to do things for fear of failure or embarrassment.
3. Christians must have courage to leave their comfort zones and work for the Lord!
4. We must display a courage and faith that Peter exhibited by stepping out on the water to meet Jesus.
5. Step out on the water (metaphorically) and…
6. Preach the word!

* It’s a command – **2 Timothy 4:1-5**
  + Paul, **charged** Timothy!
    - **This was no mere suggestion for Timothy to leave or take. It was an earnest command!**
    - **His preaching was to continue in any circumstance. When the people didn’t want to hear what he was saying, Paul commanded him by the Spirit to Preach the Word!**
    - **His preaching was to be effective. He was not to cater to the people, but show fidelity to God by preaching His entire truth!**
  + **Matthew 28:18-20**
    - By implication, Jesus, in His great commission to the apostles, also commanded all who they would teach.
    - ***Disciples make disciples!***
      * After Stephen’s death, as Saul made havoc of the church, Christians were scattered. – ***“Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word” (Acts 8:4).***
* Don’t be ashamed (embarrassed)!
  + ***“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes” – Romans 1:16***
  + **2 Timothy 1:8-12**
    - **The apostle Paul wasn’t ashamed of the gospel because of what it did.**
    - **This is God’s power to save that reveals the will and love of Him.**
    - **We are given hope by it, why would we be ashamed of it?**
    - **Paul had committed his life to Christ in the preaching of His message. Why would he be ashamed? Jesus was keeping his life, guarding it for the great day!**
* Don’t be a part of the bystander effect –
  + **Romans 10:14** – Preachers are needed!
  + **Acts 8:30-31** – What if Philip had not gone to the eunuch?? (***song: you never mentioned him to me.***)

1. Reprove a brother!

* The scripture is for reproof.
  + **2 Timothy 3:16 – In order to get the full benefit of scripture, we must use it for its entire purpose.**
  + **So many are afraid to sacrifice their own comfort of maintaining the affinity some have for them that they neglect telling them their soul is in danger!**
* It’s a command – **Matthew 18:15-17**
  + This is by no means an enjoyable experience. However, it is necessary.
  + The apostle Paul told the Corinthian church to withdraw from a brother walking in sin. He was of course unrepentant.
    - He said he told them to do so to, ***“put [them] to the test, whether [they were] obedient in ALL THINGS” (2 Corinthians 2:9).***
* It means you love them – **Galatians 6:1-2**
  + This is never easy to do but it is necessary!
  + It is an act of love.
    - **James 5:19-20** – The end is worth it!

1. Obey the gospel!

* It’s a command!
  + **Acts 17:30-31** – Everyone who exists, because they exist, have the obligation to serve God (**cf. Ecclesiastes 12:13**).
    - **This requires repentance and baptism for remission of sins**!
    - **We can’t be pleasing to God while in sin**!
  + **Mark 16:16**
    - **We can’t be saved if we don’t GET OUT OF THE BOAT AND TAKE THE FIRST STEP INTO SALVATION**!
* Jesus is there to catch you when you fall – **Matthew 14:30-31 (Peter)**
  + **1 John 1:9 – He will forgive us!**

1. Staying in the boat can be sinful!

* **James 4:17**
  + **There are many tasks that are daunting. It is not always easy! But we can’t just not do those things we know are good to do!**
  + **Remember Who is working in you when you do good works – Philippians 2:12-13**
    - **If we are working the works of God we should not have small faith, rather we should trust in Him Who is able!**
* ***“So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.”* Revelation 3:16** – You know you need to but you don’t want to fail.

**Step Out on the Water!**