

Walking on the Water
Matthew 14:22-36

Review:

1. We face all kinds of impossible situations and it is easy to be afraid
2. We often have to come to the end of our strength and stop trying to save ourselves before God helps and saves us
3. Jesus calls us not to doubt or be afraid but to trust in Him because He is with us

Reflect:

1. Have you ever felt like you were in over your head, overwhelmed by a problem or situation? How did God help you? How did that experience strengthen your faith?

Go further: Read Psalm 89

1. In verses 1 and 2, what reasons does Ethan the Ezrahite give for singing God's praises?
2. What promises does God make in verses 3 and 4? To whom does God make this promise?
3. In verses 5-7, who does Ethan say will praise God?
4. In verse 9, what reason does Ethan give for praising God?
5. In verses 11-12, what places does Ethan say that God has created?
6. In verse 14, what does Ethan say forms the foundation of God's throne?
7. In verses 15-18, what blessings does Ethan say God's people receive from Him?
8. What blessings does God promise to David in verses 20-25?
9. What does David cry out to God in verse 26?
10. What promises does God make to David in verses 27-29?
11. What warning does God give to David's descendants in verses 30-32?
12. How does God describe the permanence of His covenant with David in verses 33-35?
13. In verses 36-37, how long does God say that David's dynasty will last?
14. In verses 38-45, Ethan describes the defeat of the Davidic dynasty. Who does Ethan say will bring about this disaster?
15. What three questions does Ethan ask God in verse 46?
16. Of what truth does Ethan remind God in verse 47?
17. What universal truth does Ethan mention in verse 48?
18. What question does Ethan ask God in verse 49?
19. What does Ethan want God to remember in verse 50?
20. How does Ethan feel about the way that God's enemies look down on God's people and king?

Summary and Application:

1. Have you ever asked God the sorts of questions Ethan asks in verse 46? What was the situation and how did God eventually answer your prayers?
2. Ethan had a hard time understanding how God's promise of a permanent covenant with David could fit with the conquest of the Judean kings and people. Since Jesus obviously exercised the divine power described in verse 9 in our passage from Matthew, how does Jesus also fulfill the promises God made to David in Psalm 89:27-29?
3. Ethan was obviously upset at what unbelievers thought about the defeated descendants of David. What is your reaction when people say disparaging or dismissive things about Jesus? What does your reaction say about your devotion to Christ?