**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. April 5, 2020**

**“Staying Afloat During These Turbulent Times”**

Matthew 14:22-33

**Key Truth:** We have no reason to fear because no matter what circumstances we face, Jesus remains faithful.

**Peter’s Dangerous Prayer Request:** Matthew 14:22-30

1. Because Peter prayed a dangerous prayer, he experienced

 something the other disciples never did.

2. When Peter took his eyes off Jesus he began to sink below his

 spiritual capacity.

3. Peter learned valuable lessons even in failure.

**What We Can Learn From This:**

1. You can be right in the center of God’s will and still

 experience a storm.

 **“A spiritual storm is something you didn’t expect nor predict**

 **that causes you to either succumb to fear or exercise faith in**

 **Jesus Christ.”**

 A. A physical storm has spiritual implications.

 B. A physical storm will reveal spiritual character.

2. Jesus will allow his disciples to go through rough seas in

 order that we may discover that He’s bigger than our fears.

3. Jesus Christ is with us today and eagerly listening to our

 prayers.

4. Praying “Dangerous Prayers” will seemingly have you

 walking alone.

5. Our response to God’s Word will determine whether we live a

 life of faith or a life of fear.

 A. God is calling us to make an active choice of faith.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Remember God’s unchanging character and choose faith and trust rather than fear and anxiety. Exercise your faith in Jesus Christ this week.

**Connection Group Homework**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

The three most common fears among adults are the fear of flying, the fear of public speaking, and the fear of heights. Of these three, which do you fear the most? If none, what is your greatest fear?

Where do you think fear comes from?

How is fear different in the life of a Christian than in a non-Christian?

Read Joshua 1:1-9, Isaiah 41:13, Luke 12:32-34: These are just some instances in the Bible in which God’s people are encouraged to not be fearful. Why do you think the Bible so frequently urges the people of God to “fear not”?

Read Matthew 14:30-31: Why is it important for us to realize that Jesus responded to Peter’s weak faith?

In what situations do you feel you have strong faith? Weak faith? Why?

Read Hebrews 11:32-39: Does obeying and walking by faith mean will never experience harm? What is the difference between being successful vice faithful? What is God looking for from us?

What situation in your life right now is requiring an active choice of faith rather than fear?

How can you remind yourself this week of the character of God that inspires faith?