

Jesus: The Great Saviour of frail followers. Matthew 14:13-36

To know someone

Diseases cured

Hunger satisfied

It is easy to see why, while some were hostile to Jesus,

Many – whether those who followed him into the remote place

Matthew 14: ¹³ When Jesus heard about it, he withdrew from there by boat to a remote place to be alone. When the crowds heard this, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a large crowd, had compassion on them, and healed their sick.

Matthew 14: ³⁴ When they had crossed over, they came to shore at Gennesaret. ³⁵ When the men of that place recognized him, they alerted the whole vicinity and brought to him all who were sick. ³⁶ They begged him that they might only touch the end of his robe, and as many as touched it were healed.

Or the people of Gennesaret who brought the sick from the whole area

Were keen to see him

To have someone who can restore your life to you when you had been sidelined by illness or injury, restore you to being productive and fruitful, to free you from pain, give you sight or mobility

You'd make the effort to see Him

And it is also easy to see why what Jesus is doing would raise questions about His identity

Because it's well outside the normal, then, and now

Natural to ask 'Who can do these things?'

That's a question Jesus is helping His followers answer as He reveals more of Himself to them in the events recorded here, an answer we can share in

But that is not all that's happening in these events

Here Jesus is also deliberately teaching His followers how His identity, who He is, determines how He should be trusted.

You might hear that – Here we learn who Jesus is and what it is to follow Him – and be thinking

But why should we be interested – it all seems terribly local – going on in a small area of Palestine remote from us, and it all is very much happening in the past

Three reasons

Firstly, what we have reported here is True. This is eyewitness testimony – but the truth of the events is not enough to demand our interest. Lots of true things have happened in the past that we cheerfully never bother about.

Secondly, The gospel was written and circulated because of the conviction this Jesus, whose ministry in that far away place it describes, lives. We are not talking about the identity of a dead historical figure, but one who lives.

May not have conviction about that yet, but remember that is the basis on which these stories were recorded and circulated and preserved

Why people gather week by week to hear them still

It's not antiquarian interest, or cultural conservatism. It is because Jesus is a living person who can be known now, and not just known, but followed still

Thirdly, what we see here is that His identity is revealed in His interaction with human need, human frailty, a frailty we share

To differing extents We know sickness

We have in God's common grace hospitals, a health care system, devices and drugs for which we can be so thankful

But there is much we cannot cure, and some we can only cure at great effort

We know lives sidelined by chronic illness, by the betrayal of a frail body

We know sickness, and

We know hunger

Even in our abundance some still face hunger every day, and at the back of our mind- behind concerns about security of employment, demands for government assistance, is the threat of going hungry

We share bodies that are never satisfied, that must return day after day to eat to stay alive

We know, like the apostles in the boat, The exhaustion of battling an unco-operative nature v. 24, a nature that can at times overwhelm us

And this sickness, hunger and exhaustion

are signs of our frailty and insecurity in a world that is not right, where there is much that threatens to rob us not only of joy and happiness in life, but of life itself

And we know, if we will let ourselves feel it

The longing that drove the crowds to Jesus

The longing

To be whole

To be freed from toil

To be secure

Who Jesus intersects with our need, our deepest longings – and that is a reason to be interested

Whatever you think of the story, wherever you are in testing the historicity of the gospels –

To know someone

Who could heal –

Who could meet your hunger, not leave you in want

Who can rule nature, in whose presence it had no threat

And who cared

You can see that would be good,

For the crowds – the poor, the needy,

Jesus was that person

But how could he be?

Who could He be that He can address, answer, their frailty

Who is Jesus?

Like but unlike vv. 13-21 [2 Kings 4:42-44, Exodus 16]

Matthew 14: ¹³ When Jesus heard about it, he withdrew from there by boat to a remote place to be alone. When the crowds heard this, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a large crowd, had compassion on them, and healed their sick.

¹⁵ When evening came, the disciples approached him and said, "This place is deserted, and it is already late. Send the crowds away so that they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves."

¹⁶ "They don't need to go away," Jesus told them. "You give them something to eat."

¹⁷ "But we only have five loaves and two fish here," they said to him.

¹⁸ "Bring them here to me," he said. ¹⁹ Then he commanded the crowds to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them. He broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ Everyone ate and was satisfied. They picked up twelve baskets full of leftover pieces. ²¹ Now those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

When Jesus meets the crowd it says he had compassion on them and heals their sick, v14.

This healing is a characteristic feature of Jesus' ministry in all the gospels

One that Peter could expect His hearers to know

To the crowds at Pentecost Peter could say

Acts 2: ²² "Fellow Israelites, listen to these words: This Jesus of Nazareth was a man attested to you by God with miracles, wonders, and signs that God did among you through him, just as you yourselves know.

And to Cornelius in Caesarea

Acts 10: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how he went about doing good and healing all who were under the tyranny of the devil, because God was with him.

References to Jesus healing are so frequent we can forget the wonder and power of it.

What it would have been like

Lame – unable to contribute, a burden – and walk

Blind – and see

With all our medicine we cannot do that, bring wholeness in an instant with a word

But Jesus is so powerful that the people of Gennesaret, like the woman with the chronic bleeding, just want to touch his garment. V. 36

Matthew 14: ³⁴ When they had crossed over, they came to shore at Gennesaret. ³⁵ When the men of that place recognized him, they alerted the whole vicinity and brought to him all who were sick. ³⁶ They begged him that they might only touch the end of his robe, and as many as touched it were healed.

They are convinced Jesus has overflowing power and wholeness

Who can do that, make whole just with a touch?

For readers of the Old Testament, the Jews amongst whom Jesus lived, it is the One who can bring the wholeness of shalom, of the peace with God that is established when Israel, when the world, is no longer under God's judgment but living in His presence under His reign

When life is restored to the way it should be, the way it was at creation

Jesus came preaching the nearness of the Kingdom of God, of that reign of God.

and these healings are signs that The Kingdom is near because of the presence of God's King, sent from God

Jesus heals because He brings God's reign in Himself

And Jesus feeds 5,000

Others in the Old Testament had participated in miraculous feeding – Elisha feeding one hundred of the sons of the prophets [2 Kings 4:43] from 20 loaves in fulfilment of the word of the Lord

2 Kings 4: ⁴³ But Elisha's attendant asked, "What? Am I to set this before a hundred men?"

"Give it to the people to eat," Elisha said, "for this is what the LORD says: 'They will eat, and they will have some left over.'"

And Moses who was associated with the provision of manna to Israel in the wilderness

But it was not Moses who gave the Manna. It was God

And Elisha's provision could not compare

Jesus feeds 5,000 men, along with the women and children who were not numbered.

And there is no word of the LORD. Jesus decides to feed them Himself

And the provision is Abundant. They are all filled and there are twelve baskets of left overs.

Who can do that?

God is the One who is always feeding us, feeding us through the abundant fruitfulness of the creation He sustains.

Here Jesus feeds with created things, bread and fishes, multiplying them as God does routinely to satisfy the hungry.

This is the creative power of God at work in Jesus

Jesus is different from the holy men and religious authorities the people knew in the present or from history. He is greater, greater than the greatest prophets, greater than the rabbis. Greater than all who have come after Him who claim to be prophets

He is personally exercising the power of God on earth, the power of God to sustain life, and make whole

So what category could people put Him in?

How should they think about Him?

That question is raised even more acutely for His followers because of what they witness next

A class above vv. 22-32 [Job 9:8, Ps. 77:19, Hab. 3:15; Matthew 8:23-27]

Matthew 14: ²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ After dismissing the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. Well into the night, he was there alone. ²⁴ Meanwhile, the boat was already some distance from land, battered by the waves, because the wind was against them. ²⁵ Jesus came toward them walking on the sea very early in the morning. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified. "It's a ghost!" they said, and they cried out in fear.

²⁷ Immediately Jesus spoke to them. "Have courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

²⁸ "Lord, if it's you," Peter answered him, "command me to come to you on the water."

²⁹ He said, "Come."

And climbing out of the boat, Peter started walking on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the strength of the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand, caught hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ Then those in the boat worshiped him and said, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Jesus has made the disciples go ahead of him in a boat while he dismisses the crowd and then goes up the mountain to pray

The disciples have now been many hours at sea. They have made progress – they are quite a way out towards the middle, but it has been hard going, with the wind, probably a westerly at this time of year, whipping up the sea against them.

And then they see a figure walking towards them on the water.

They do not know it is Jesus at first

Why would you expect it to be Him – people don't walk on water.

So they think it is a ghost – one of the spirits associated with those who drowned that were thought to wander endlessly on the sea, or the malevolent night spirits the people believed existed

They are, naturally, terrified.

But Jesus reassures them – "Have courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

Now No prophet is recorded in the Old Testament as walking on water

God alone was spoken of as treading on the waters, the restless sea a symbol of destructive evil that He conquered in setting His people free.

The disciples knew that

But Jesus walks on water and can command Peter to walk on water, and on the water can rescue Peter from drowning, pull him up and out of the sea

And when He gets into the boat the wind that had been tormenting them ceases

Recalling their earlier experience when Jesus had saved them from drowning in the storm by commanding the wind and waves to be quiet

Matthew 8:23-27

Then they had said v. 27

“What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the sea obey him!”

But now they say

³³ *Then those in the boat worshiped him and said, “Truly you are the Son of God.”*

And worship Him.

Son of God [Matthew 16:16, 21-23, 27:54]

Jesus has defied their merely human categories

He is in a league of His own where

Only thinking of him, speaking of him, responding to him as divine, worshipping Him, is adequate

They confess that He is someone with the power of God, Son of God

But even that confession is not the full story

They know Jesus doesn't fit into any of their usual categories for someone sent to them with God's message

They know His power

But they don't yet know His purpose, where He fits into the plan of God to save His people.

That fuller confession will come in Matthew 16, when Peter in response to Jesus' question “Who do you say I am?”

Says “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”

Matthew 16: ¹⁵ “But you,” he asked them, “who do you say that I am?”

¹⁶ *Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*

You are the Son of Psalm 2, the Son who will reign over all nations eternally, the Christ who will bring the end of this present evil age and usher in the age to come, who will rescue God's people.

You are that Son

Yet even then we quickly learn Peter and the other disciples do not really understand

His greatness and the greatness of the salvation He has come to bring, the salvation of God

Not an earthly Kingdom, but God's kingdom

Not temporary healings – of those who will one day die

Not temporary satisfaction of our hunger – in those who will hunger again

Not a brief reprieve from the forces of an indifferent creation

But permanent freedom from decay and death, eternal life

Where there is no fear of want, they hunger no more

A new creation in harmony with humanity, where all threat is removed, where in Isaiah's word the wolf dwells with the lamb and the little child will put his hand into the snakes den, and they will not harm or destroy each other [Is. 11:6-9, 65:25], where the earth is full of the knowledge of God as the waters cover the sea

A great salvation achieved through what was unthinkable for the disciples, the death of the Son of God at the hands of His enemies

When Jesus said to them that it was necessary for Him to suffer many things, and be crucified and be raised on the third day

Peter had said to Him

"Oh no, Lord, this will never happen to you!"

Matthew 16: ²¹ From then on Jesus began to point out to his disciples that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and scribes, be killed, and be raised the third day. ²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, "Oh no, Lord! This will never happen to you!"

Yet it was that death that would ransom them from captivity to sin – to rebellion against God, and its penalty, death, that would bring forgiveness and peace with God, bring eternal life

What we see in the gospel is that the disciples have a growing understanding of who Jesus is. They don't get it all at once. They see – you are the son of God, but they don't see all there is to see

Jesus patiently teaches them first to confess truly, and then to truly know what they have confessed

It is a work that goes on right to the end of the gospels, when the risen Jesus stands before them and says 'All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me', and they again worship Him, worship Him as the glorious Son of God, God with us.

Seeing that, and Jesus' patience, is a great encouragement – for we don't get Jesus all at once

By His grace He brings us to confess Jesus is Lord. But that is only the life changing beginning. We grow as the Lord teaches us what that means

Through all our lives

Teaches us His power – not just to raise us from the dead some time in the future, but to break bad habits now,

the faithfulness of His promise – as, for example, we trust Him to provide – job, or house as we seek first His kingdom and righteousness,

The reality of His forgiveness

the goodness of His rule of our lives

Teaches us patiently -

And in particular teaches us what that confession means for our following of Him, teaches us the lesson over and over again that He teaches the apostles here

What is it to follow Jesus?

As well as showing compassion to the crowd and in His compassion revealing His greatness, in these two events Jesus is deliberately teaching His followers what it is to be the follower of the Son of God, one who has the power of God

A deliberate lesson vv. 15-21

¹⁵ *When evening came, the disciples approached him and said, "This place is deserted, and it is already late. Send the crowds away so that they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves."*

¹⁶ *"They don't need to go away," Jesus told them. "You give them something to eat."*

¹⁷ *"But we only have five loaves and two fish here," they said to him.*

¹⁸ *"Bring them here to me," he said. ¹⁹ Then he commanded the crowds to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them. He broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ Everyone ate and was satisfied. They picked up twelve baskets full of leftover pieces. ²¹ Now those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.*

The disciples v. 15 initiate the conversation about the crowds and their need to be fed.

They anticipate the problem, but theirs are only natural solutions, solutions that absolve them of any responsibility for providing for them.

And the solution is probably no solution at all, for this is a remote place, with only a few small villages around which would have little capacity to feed so many from their available grain supplies.

But Jesus makes responsibility for the crowd's need for food theirs

"you give them something to eat"

The disciples let Jesus know that with their meagre resources – the five loaves and two fish – obedience to his command is plainly impossible

And, with this clear command from the Lord and this clear observation of their inability to obey His command from their own resources, the stage is set for their learning

"Bring them here to me."

Jesus takes their bread and fish and multiplies them to meet the need.

The disciples see Jesus has more than enough power to multiply their meagre resources to make it possible for them to obey Him

That what seems impossible for them, Jesus makes possible

You give v. 16....and then, receiving from Jesus v. 19 The disciples gave [them] to the crowd.

Jesus makes their obedience to His command a reality

And it was not just getting by, as if Jesus was pushed to the limit of His ability by what He commanded them or by the greatness of the need.

There was more than enough. Their lack of resources became an abundance of resources in His hand

What has Jesus taught them?

That He is able to give them all they need to do what He commands them to do – and more

That they can turn to Him to make their meagre resources more than sufficient to do His will, to obey Him

The Lesson Repeated vv. 28-31

²⁷ *Immediately Jesus spoke to them. "Have courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."*

²⁸ *“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter answered him, “command me to come to you on the water.”*

²⁹ *He said, “Come.”*

And climbing out of the boat, Peter started walking on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the strength of the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me!”

³¹ *Immediately Jesus reached out his hand, caught hold of him, and said to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”*

It is that lesson that is reinforced for them all in Jesus’ dealing with Peter.

On learning that it is Jesus Peter says ²⁸ *“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter answered him, “command me to come to you on the water.”*

It is probably better to read “Lord, since it is you, command me.

Peter is not setting a test for Jesus to prove His identity to him and to the others

Peter is wanting to share in His Master’s power and ministry.

Just as Jesus has shared with them his ‘authority over unclean spirits, to drive them out and to heal every disease and sickness’ [Matthew 10:1] so they could conduct ministry in His name, as His representatives, Peter as a disciple is wanting to share in this activity of Jesus, to do as His Master does

So Jesus commands – Come

Notice, it is a command, and you know what happens next

And climbing out of the boat, Peter started walking on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the strength of the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me!”

Peter starts coming to Jesus – walking on the water

But then the message of his senses – of the power of the wind, the reality of the waves – fills his mind, drives out his confidence in Jesus

And he begins to sink

He cries out, Lord save me, and the Lord does

³¹ *Immediately Jesus reached out his hand, caught hold of him, and said to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”*

Let me ask you – what did Peter doubt?

Not who Jesus is, or that Jesus is there walking on the water, nor Jesus’ capacity to save him – he cried Lord

He doubted the very thing Jesus has just taught the disciples

That where He commands, Jesus can give them the capacity, the ability, the power, to fulfil His command

That where He commands ‘come’, the Lord Jesus can make it possible for Peter to obey His command, make it possible where it is impossible for Peter in himself

And why did he doubt

Because the information of his senses – what he was seeing, feeling, was more real to him than the word of the Son of God

Because he let himself focus on the circumstances of the world around him, and not on Jesus

The issue pinpointed v. 31

Because He did not trust Jesus enough

Our Lord pinpoints the issue

‘O you of little faith’

He did not trust Jesus as He deserved to be trusted.

Peter’s faith was not consistent with Jesus’ greatness, did not match Jesus’ reality.

Jesus is God with us

The one through whom all things were made – including the wind and the sea

They bow to His will, serve Him and His purposes

As Jesus’ word created them, so His word rules them

And Jesus cares for His people

Just as Peter should not think the Lord Jesus commanded him to do something He was not able to empower Him to do

So Peter should not think Jesus commanded him something that was not for his good

Peter was sinking, but his inability to obey Jesus’ command and come to him on the water, was Not because we always sink in water

And not because of the fierceness of the storm

Peter was sinking because of his little faith, his doubting that the Lord Jesus could make it possible for him to do exactly as He had commanded Peter

And that is true for our failures to do what Jesus commands us

Jesus has no lack of power

Jesus has no thoughtlessness, no lack of love for His people

What He commands He commands for our good

And what He commands He is able to give us grace to do

The problem with our obedience to Jesus’ word, whether that is to rejoice always, to forgive, to love, to keep our word, to be faithful in our marriages, to live a sexually pure life

is not His word, His command

And The problem is not our circumstances

The problem is our lack of faith,

The problem is in our hearts, in our little faith, in our giving greater reality to our circumstances, our weaknesses
Than to His word

In doubting that the Jesus who commands can give us in our weakness the ability to obey

I am going to come back to that but let's think first

Why is Jesus so deliberately training his disciples, deliberately teaching them that He can and should be trusted to give them all they need to do His will even when it seems impossible to them.

It is because at the end of the gospel He is going to entrust them with a task that is completely beyond them

Equipped, trained, for the task ahead 28:18-20

At the end of the gospel the risen Jesus will say to His disciples

Matthew 28: ¹⁸ Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Think about that.

They did not even know who all the nations were

They didn't know their cultures or languages

But they did know that the nations they knew were idolaters, who had no knowledge of the living God

And as they got on with it they started to realise the cost, a cost Jesus had already spoken of – hated by all people for His sake

That people would reject them, imprison them, stone them, kill them

And who were they? A very mixed group

Not one of them graduated from the best schools

Not one of them an unblemished record of faithfulness

And not one of them a plan for the evangelisation of the world

Nothing would seem more unlikely than that they could do what Jesus has commanded them to do.

But just as Jesus fed the crowds through the disciples

So He wills to save the world through His disciples by sending them out into the world with the gospel, as He takes the little they have – their experience of Jesus, their testimony to Jesus, and He makes it more than enough to bring all nations to be His disciples

So that He can be the person it is good to know – not just for the needy crowds of Galilee, but for the needy world

And what the Lord Jesus commanded, he has brought to be – in all the frailty and the inability of His followers

He has made disciples of all nations

The Great Saviour of those with little faith

Bothers and sisters, in training the disciples Jesus was Not just training them –

in their training He is teaching us, all who will believe through their witness

We too are called to trust that that Lord Jesus will be able to give us all we need to do His will

That where what He commands seems beyond our resources, He can multiply our resources to do His will

That where what He commands seems beyond our power, He can make it possible for us in our weakness to do what He commands

Whatever the circumstances

However unpromising the environment around us seems to be

Jesus deserves to be trusted as God, for whom nothing is impossible, and that trust should be shown in doing His will

We should know that better than Peter did when he got out of the boat

We are on this side of the resurrection. Jesus has made explicit that His is all authority - over creation, over death, over the actions of sinful people, over the forces of darkness, over sickness and disease

And we have seen the measure of His love and His commitment to His people – He has laid down His life for us

So let's think for a moment about what the Lord Jesus has commanded us to do,

I've mentioned some of what our Lord commands us already

Areas of personal daily obedience

Love, forgiveness, thankfulness, control of the tongue, purity

Think of where you are challenged in obedience, perhaps making excuses for not doing what you know He has commanded.

And our Lord also gives us commands through His apostles about our interaction with others

Not neglecting meeting together where we are able to meet, as we can now

Serving one another in love

Encouraging one another

Using our gifts for the common good [1 Pet. 4:6-11]

Practicing the love that covers a multitude of sins

Some of us may be finding these particularly challenging at the moment

Lost the habit, or the confidence, to meet with our brothers and sisters

Or We've lost contact, and let misunderstandings can develop

But these are commands, and the Lord expects us to trust Him to give us the grace and strength to do what He says

And the task He has entrusted to the apostles, His first disciples, He has also entrusted to us who have become His disciples through their witness

We also are commanded to make disciples of all nations by preaching the gospel that brings them to confess faith in Jesus, and teaching them to do all that He has commanded us.

To make disciples here in Australia, no matter how unpromising our secular culture appears to be

Think of what the Lord Jesus has commanded us to do

And recognise where the problem lies in obedience.

It is in our hearts, in our little faith

Not in His commands – which are good, and for our good

Not in your circumstances

The difficulty of the people you are living with

Your upbringing

Your loneliness

The 24/7 secular propaganda

They are the circumstances in which He will show the greatness of His grace in our weakness

And then recognise where the solution starts

In our hearts

Repenting of little faith – that we are not trusting Him as He deserves

Of thinking that our senses, our judgments of difficulty, are a more reliable guide to what we should and can do than His word

And then Growing in faith as we grow in knowledge of Jesus. That is how the disciples grew in faith, it is how we grow in faith

It is a knowledge of Him as revealed in Scripture, and a knowledge of His faithfulness as we live trusting Him, finding His word to be true as we put it into practice

And part of growing in your knowledge of the goodness and greatness of Jesus – is remembering what else is taught here – for our comfort

Jesus didn't let Peter drown

He has compassion on those with little faith

Peter, starting and failing, is the one who knew the strong arm of the Lord

As he stood there on the boat dripping, cold – perhaps even being the butt of the jokes of the other disciples

He knew the Lord Jesus rescued Him

Knew Jesus heard him, knew His care

And He knew, for a moment, he had stood on the sea – by Jesus power

Knew the problem wasn't Jesus, but himself and his little faith,

and in the experience of having to face his little faith, Jesus grew His faith in His care and power a little bit more

It is better to be a rebuked and rescued follower than one who never gets out of the boat

Better to obey and be shown how little your faith is in your faltering obedience, than never to try and do what Jesus says because you are afraid of failure or embarrassment.

The way we grow is doing what Jesus says, and when we fail calling out to Him for rescue

He won't let you drown

He doesn't tire of putting you back in the boat

It is like the loaves and fishes.

He has abundant power, abundant patience, abundant grace

So think about where you know the Lord's will but are not doing it

The Lord Jesus deserves to be perfectly trusted and perfectly obeyed, for He is the Son of God, and His power is more than enough to enable His people to do His will

So abandon excuses for not doing what He says

overcome fear – get out of the boat

Do what He says, looking to Him and not the discouraging circumstances that may be screaming in your ears like the wind on the sea

Keep your eyes on Him

He hears, His arm is strong, His grace always enough