

# “Red Letter Words: Walking on the Sea”

Matthew 14:22-33

Adam Jones, March 29/30, 2014

## Reflect on the Text

\*Note: Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible itself. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

- Read Matthew 14:22-33. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

## Reflect on the Sermon

### INTRODUCTION

- 1 In your own words, what is faith? How do you know when you have it?
- 2 Summarize the *Big Idea* of the sermon in **one phrase or sentence** (Note: this is not the same as listing the main points). In other words, if someone woke you up at 3am on Monday morning and asked, “What was the sermon about on Sunday?” what would you say in the midst of your sleepy haze?

### FAITH BEGINS IN THE STORM

- 3 Jesus made the disciples get in the boat and go to the sea, the place where they felt capable and confident. We too think we are capable and confident to handle the storms of life. What makes us feel this way? What are the things that we know we cannot control?
- 4 Why did Jesus wait 10 hours before going out to the disciples? What storm(s) are you in the midst of right now? Why do you think God has allowed it to continue up to this point? In other words, what is he trying to teach you?

## FAITH IS WALKING ON THE SEA

- 5 Peter stepped out onto the water because he was worn out and exhausted from rowing. Adam said, “You have to be exhausted from all your idols before you come to Jesus.” Can you recall a time when you felt exhausted and worn out from idols that weren’t giving you life and instead turned to Jesus?
- 6 Of all the Biblical paintings from the Renaissance, why was there only one depicting this story? What does this tell us about how we think about faith? Why are we so afraid for others to see us as failures?
- 7 Adam makes engaged couples say to one another, “You are not Jesus.” Why does he do this?

## FAITH ENDS IN WORSHIP

- 8 What changed in the disciples after Jesus calmed the storm? In other words, what did they know or believe differently about Jesus?
- 9 Adam told the story of Horatio Spafford and the writing of the hymn “It is Well With My Soul”. Why did Spafford talk about his own sin when reflecting on the death of his children? Why is it not true to say that “God is punishing us” when we suffer?
- 10 Read Revelation 21:1. What does “there was no longer any sea” mean?

## **Final Reflections**

- How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for God and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?