

HOW CAN WE ENDURE THE DIFFICULTIES WE ENCOUNTER FOR FOLLOWING HIM?

A lesson in true faith in the Son of God
Matthew 14:22-33

- I. **Recognize...WHEN WE FOLLOW JESUS, HE ALLOWS STRUGGLES FOR OUR GOOD: Jesus sends His disciples into a great storm, goes to pray (22-24)**

- II. **Realize...JESUS WANTS YOU TO KNOW HE SEES OUR STRUGGLE, IS THERE ALONGSIDE AND DEEPLY CARES: Jesus comes to the disciples in the midst of the storm walking on water and encourages them to trust Him (25-27)**
 - A. Jesus saw their struggle and came to them walking on the water, intending to walk by so they could see Him (Mark 6:46-48b, 25,)

 - B. Jesus responds to their great fear with two commands based on His true identity:
"Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." (26-27)

- III. **Learn from...PETERS' GREAT FAITH AND LITTLE FAITH: Obey Christ, trust Him, keep your eyes on Him, and He will deliver you (28-31)**
 - A. Peter's amazing statement and Jesus response...*"Come"* (28-29a)

 - B. Peter steps out in great faith, then pulls his eyes off Christ and begins to sink (29-30a)

 - C. Peter requests to be saved and Jesus immediately saves him (30b-31a)

 - D. Jesus graciously reproves Peter and maybe us: *"Why did you doubt?"* (31b)

- IV. **Learn from...THE DISCIPLES RESPONSE: Worship of Christ! (32-33)**