

DANGEROUS DISTRACTIONS

Text: Matthew 14:2~~1~~-33

And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitude away, . . . And when he had sent the multitude away, He went up into a mountain apart to pray; and when evening came, he was there along. . . But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. . . And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. . .

And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a Spirit", and they cried out for fear. But straightway, Jesus spake unto them saying, "BE OF GOOD CHEER; IT IS I. BE NOT AFRAID".

And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. . .". And He said, "COME".

And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. . . BUT WHEN HE SAW THE WIND BOISTEROUS, HE WAS AFRAID; AND BEGINNING TO SINK, HE CRIED, SAYING, "LORD SAVE ME!"

And immediately Jesus stretched forth His hand, and caught him, and said unto him, "O THOU OF LITTLE FAITH, WHEREFORE DIDST THOU DOUBT?"

And when they were come into ship, the wind ceased.

DANGEROUS DISTRACTIONS

Allow me to ask you a question.

Please allow me to get into the INNER CHAMBERS of your thinking. How are your powers of concentration? That is reference to sustaining worthwhile thoughts and values. Can you focus? How long? What is the state of your ability to concentrate on profitable, meaningful things in life. Can you be unwavering in your concentration? You see, the secret to meaningful success lies in the Power to concentrate. Concentration spells CONNECTEDNESS. - a serious solid hookup with the object of your attention. What's your state? Are you easily distracted?

DISTRACTION SPELLS DISCONNECTION -- SPELLS DISRUPTION -- DISRUPTION OF RELATIONSHIPS ...

Peter one night was distracted in a storm on the Sea of Galilee. A sea 13 miles long and 7 miles wide. The sea is 650 feet below sea level. Water pours from the Jordan river. The topography is such that currents of air turn placid Galilee into a tempestuous sea. These winds come out, sweep down, and convulsions occur.

Jesus had performed a MIRACLE. Before eventide. Jesus fed 5,000 listeners 5 barley loaves and 2 fish. Jesus had directed the disciples to go to the other side. He dismissed the crowd. Then He went up to a high place to meditate and keep in tune.

The Angry Waves began to whip, and the contrary winds blew. It was around the fourth watch of the night -- 3 a.m. The Master began moving towards his disciples. He came down from his high place and stepped on the water. HE CAME UNTO THEM.

Thinking
Concentrating
Thoughts
+
Value
- Process

Distracted
↓
Disconnection
↓
Disruption
↓
Wandering

High
place

4 Watch

Focus

Object
of
your
Attention

650

P.2

WATCHING THE SEA...

The Disciples said it looked like a Ghost -- an apparation -- Christ calls out and says "BE OF GOOD CHEER, IT IS I. DO NOT BE AFRAID".

Peter Peter said, "If it be Thou, Master, let me come unto thee. COME". Christ says, "COME". Peter rushed and stepped on the water. His eyes were fixed on Jesus. He was doing alright until he met with a DANGEROUS DISTRACTION.....

Eyes
Fixed On
Jesus

Wind When Peter saw the wind, boisterous, lapping waves, there was a certain spirit that stayed on Peter's case (the devil). Christ on one occasion said ("Get thee behind me, Satan").

Distraction

The Devil majors in DISTRACTIONS -- distracts for the purpose of disconnection. (Peer Pressure, Worldly Values, Hunger for Fame, Acceptance, Reaching the top, Independence, Space.)

Faith For the believer, Faith is the connecting POWER. Have you not had this happen to you? (Social Experimentation, Rebellion, Acceptance, Permissiveness, Lonliness)

Connecting
Power

Job Job -- the devil showed up to get his mind off eternity

Strategist Devil is a good strategist, well educated. Cross every T, can quote scripture even to CHRIST, Make you call Good Evil. This is his duty, design and delight. He will laugh in your face. The devil delights when you make a mistake and a saint falls.

Adam + Eve
David

Talk to Adam and Eve -- Ask Samson got situated in the wrong barber shop -- Delila's shop. Talk to David who

went to the rooftop instead of the hills -- Bethsheba.

Life

Life is a storm tossed, wind swept sea. Never minimize the power of DISTRACTION. THE PURPOSE IS TO:

I. DISENGAGE, DISLODGE, SEPARATE

II. DELAY YOUR JOURNEY (Must regroup)

III. PURPOSE IS TO DEGRADE YOU

IV. SOMETIMES THE PURPOSE IS TO DESTROY YOU. Look at the streets today. People distracted, shattered lives, people going the wrong way at 100 miles an hour. The devil's desire and delight is to ditch the train. CHRIST SAYS, CONCENTRATE ON HIM. "LOOK UNTO ME ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH AND BE SAYED. . ."

Peter

Don't be another Peter. Peter succumbed to a Dangerous distraction instead of walking onto meet the master. Be a good cheer, be not afraid. We are not brought to this; till we find ourselves sinking.

Save Me

Peter said, "LORD SAVE ME!" Christ extended His hand. Keep your hand on the throttle and your eye on the rail.

He saved Him. For the son of Man is come to seek and save those who are lost. He rebuked Him. Peter had enough Faith to bring him out on the water. Not enough faith to carry him through.

NEVER TO LEAVE ME ALONE

DISTRACTION, DISCONNECTION, DISRUPTION

Faith re-connect
The Word
Sustains
(Frame of Reference)