

2023 Lessons from the beach

1. Jesus is the powerful Son of God.

22 Immediately [after feeding five thousand people,] Jesus [told] the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd.

23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,

24 but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

25 During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.

26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid" (Matt 14:22-27).

That's a pretty neat story, isn't it? The disciples were out in the boat all alone and the wind and the waves were splashing against and then along came Jesus, walking on water! Wow! That's something you don't see every day.

But you know what? One day I got thinking: 'I wonder if *I* could walk on water?'

If I could walk on water, what Jesus did wouldn't be very special would it? What about you guys? Can you walk on water?

I thought I would put it to the test and I made a little video for you. So let's watch it together.

PLAY VIDEO

As you can see, I cannot walk on water. Which makes what Jesus did when He walked on water pretty special! It shows the He is the powerful Son of God. That's the first idea that I want you to remember today. Can you say it with me? **Jesus is the powerful Son of God.** He could defy gravity and walk on water

because He is God's Son. There's no one else like Him. He has the power of God. And whenever He did miraculous things, He did them to prove that point. Miracles aren't just miracles, they show us that: Jesus is the powerful Son of God!

That's the first lesson from the beach. The next two lessons help us to think about what it means for us that Jesus is the powerful Son of God.

2. Jesus is the trustworthy Saviour.

25 During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.

26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

29 "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

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

32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.

33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God" (Mat 14:23-33 NIV).

The disciples had learned the first important lesson. Do you remember what it is? Jesus is the powerful Son of God. That's why He could walk on water. But unlike me, Peter could walk on water too, at least for a few seconds. So let's act this out.

Peter and the other disciples were in the boat and along came Jesus, walking on the water. (Jesus is the powerful Son of God). The disciples were afraid but Jesus said 'Take courage it is I! Don't be afraid.'

That seemed to calm them down a little and then Peter said 'Lord, if it's really you, come out onto the water.' And so Jesus said 'come'. So let's imagine that this egg is Peter and he goes out onto the water and he manages to stay on top of the water too!

But then what happened?

When he saw the wind and the waves and the storm all around him, he took his eyes off of Jesus and what happened? Into the water he went!

But immediately, Jesus reached out His hand and pulled him back out of the water and He said 'why did you doubt?' And when they got back into the boat, the storm stopped!

What do we learn here? We learn that Jesus is a trustworthy Saviour.

Jesus is a trustworthy Saviour.

When it seemed as though Peter would get swallowed up by the storm, Jesus reached in and rescued Him. He pulled him out of danger and got Him into the boat. Which is a real encouragement for us. When we're in difficult circumstances, we can know that Jesus is a trustworthy Saviour. He will not let us be overwhelmed but help us out of the storm and into peace.

But Peter teaches us another lesson too – Peter started off walking on the water but when did he fall in? When he took his eyes off of Jesus. When he was focused on Jesus, the powerful Son of God, he was fine. He could even walk on water. But when he took his eyes off Jesus and began to look at the storm around him, he started to think that the storm was more powerful than Jesus. He began to feel overwhelmed and that's why he sank. But even then, Jesus caught him and rescued him because He is a trustworthy Saviour.

So when we're in the midst of a storm, remember that Jesus is a trustworthy Saviour and keep your eyes on Him.

Song: You never let go of me!

3. Jesus is the firm foundation.

24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.

27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." (Mat 7:24-29 NIV).

Let's think about what we've learned so far. Do you remember the first idea? Jesus is the powerful Son of God. And the second one? Jesus is a trustworthy Saviour. Put those together and you get our third idea, **Jesus is the firm foundation**. If He is the powerful Son of God and the trustworthy Saviour, then He is a firm foundation that we can build our lives on.

Let's think again about the story that Jesus told. I'm going to need a volunteer here.

So you can see we have this big tub of sand. And we have someone who wants to build a house. What do you think is going to be a firm foundation to build on? Something hard, something solid. So let's put our person on a rock. And pour the water in.

This person did not fall because they were built on a firm foundation.

But what about a person who doesn't have a firm foundation? They get washed away don't they? They can't stand in the storm and the wind huffs and puffs and blows them all down!

Jesus says that HE is the firm foundation that we can build our lives upon. Because He is the powerful Son of God and the trustworthy Saviour, we can build our lives on Him. We make His values and His character a part of our lives so that we can be confident that when the storm comes, He will hold us steady and keep

us from being washed away. We take His words and His example and put them into practice and we will not fall because our foundation is the Rock.

Jesus is the firm foundation to build your life upon.

Now, let's review our three ideas together:

1. Jesus is the powerful Son of God.
2. Jesus is the trustworthy Saviour.
3. Jesus is our firm foundation.

Song: Let all that I am!