

First Baptist Church – Calgary

Week of: July 4, 2010

Message Series: Questions Jesus Asked

#5 – “Why did you doubt?”

- *Matthew 14:22-33*

Introduction:

It's common within our society to meet people who have questions about Jesus. After all, Jesus is such an interesting and compelling person within human history. He claimed to be God, performed many miracles, taught with profound wisdom, modeled a life of selflessness & humility, and claims today almost three billion followers. On top of that, his people preach that he rose from the dead and will one day return to judge the earth and wrap up human history. Is it any wonder that so many have questions about him? It's interesting to note however that Jesus, too, had some questions. And as expected his questions are not trivial in nature but rather profound. They demand careful thought, inward reflection, and always a choice on our part. In fact, they are the sort of questions that we would expect God to ask.

Study Notes:

Personal Study: #5 – *Getting out of the boat & walking to Jesus*

Read Matthew 14:1-33.

1. What do you think were the range of emotions that Jesus found himself going through during John's murder, the crowd's needs, and finally the disciple's night on the water?
 - What concerns Jesus the most in this chapter?
2. Read John 6:1-15 & Matthew 14:22-23. What temptation was Jesus facing at this time and how did he deal with it?
 - What temptations are you facing today, and how are you dealing with them?
 - Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. What promise does God give you regarding temptation?
3. Ken talked about God's method of directing people into difficult situations, sometimes to *correct* them, and other times to *perfect* them.
 - Where has God directed you into difficult circumstances?
 - How have those circumstances corrected you?
 - How have those circumstances matured you?
4. If you had been Peter, how would you have responded to Jesus' invitation to join him outside the boat?
5. Peter took his eyes off of Jesus because of the waves and started sinking – he doubted even though he was standing on top of the sea!
 - Have you ever stood on top of the waves with Jesus? What did it feel like? When did it end?
 - Why can we *never* adequately learn about faith until it's tested in difficult and even “impossible” situations? Does this truth frustrate you or encourage you?
6. What “boat” is God asking *you* to get out of? Why?
 - How about our *congregation* – where are we being called to leave our “boat” in order to be out on the water with Jesus?
 - What is the name of our safe haven? How can we encourage one another to walk out to where Jesus is?