

911, what's your emergency?

I. Slide1 Announce:

A. Slide2-4 Gilbert - Sun night of prayer. Office closed. The Stir.

II. Slide5 Intro: 9-1-1, what's your emergency?

A. Slide6 We love stories of **rescue**. This week the world met *Romeo the dog*, he was the dog found after rescuers heard his bark, **9 days** after Italy's infamous earthquake.

1. Slide7 This week the story is about *Peter walking on water*. **But** what matters the most? **who Peter** is or what he did? **Or**, who **God** is and what He did?

B. Listen for *several assurances* our text gives us, as we sail through *our storms of life*.

1. 9-1-1, what's **your storm** emergency?

III. Slide8 WALKING ON A WORD (22-33)

A. Slide9 STORM CHASERS (22) *those on pursuit of any severe weather condition*.

B. (22) **Immediately** - *Why immediately? They wanted to make Him King*. (Jn.6:15)

C. Jesus **made them get into the boat** - This storm came because they were **In** the will of God.

1. Slide9b Storm Chasers, *those on pursuit of any severe weather conditions*, always seem a little foolish...**but** it's not when **Jesus** tells you to chase one.

a) We are always safer in the storm **in His will**, **than** on land w/the crowds **out of His will**¹

2. Did Jesus know the storm was coming? Yes. Did He deliberately direct them into the storm? Yes.

3. Isn't this like, *telling a child to cross the street when you know a car is coming?*
No! It's like, *creating waves w/your left hand in a bathtub & holding a toy boat perfectly afloat w/your right hand*.

D. 2 Kinds of Storms:

1. Slide9c Storms of Correction - When God **disciplines** us (eg. Jonah).

2. Storms of Perfection - When God **helps us grow** (eg. here).

¹ Warren Wiersbe

a) In the 1st storm, Jesus rode it with them (ch.8). This one, He tests them being out of the boat.

3. Do you think that obedience to God always brings **smooth sailing**? **No!** Sometimes obedience places you right in a storm. [i.e. every storm is not of the devil]

a) Example: Acts 4. Pete & John, obediently preaching & teaching. Result? Jailed.

E. Slide10a STORM PRAYERS (23-25)

F. Be assured, If He has brought **you** into the middle of a storm...He *cares* for you & He *prays* for you.

G. (23) We now are on *the sea of humanity* as He sits upon *the shores of heaven interceding* for US.

1. What if I told you Jesus was rt. in this next room praying for you. **Wouldn't it not give you new courage to endure the storms/trials of life?**

H. He **saw** the disciples & **knew** their plight. (Mrk. 6:48)

1. Be assured, He certainly see's **you** in **your** storm, & knows **your** plight.

I. Slide10b (24) The lake here is about 6 miles wide. The 4th watch was between 3 & 6 am. In 9 hours they had only rowed about 3 miles. **And after this long, they were about to perish?**

J. A Serious Situation. Matthew here states they were *in the middle of the sea & tossed by waves*. Mark adds, *they were straining* (tortured,tormented, distressed) **at rowing**, & that the **wind** was against them. *Life is hard!*

K. Slide10c (25) Mans' Extremity is God's Opportunity.

1. *He comes in the teeth of the wind, & on the face of the wave*. [Jesus walked approx. 4 miles on the lake]

L. Slide11a STORM CHEER (26,27)

M. (26) He would have walked by (Mrk.6:48) So, What made Jesus stop?

1. Well, when *they cried out*. Yes but actually *when they cried out for fear*. **Not**, that they cried out **Jesus!** But when they cried out, **AHHHH!!!**

a) **Not** when they cried out *in faith*...It was when they cried out *in fear*. **Jesus** simply heard their voice. *Does that encourage you? I love this Jesus!*

N. It is a ghost! And they cried out for fear.

O. Slide11b Sometimes God shows up in a *scary way* not a *comfortable way* [Moses/burn bush. It is I/I AM]

1. We need to recognize the presence of God in...*our pain...our hurts...our sorrow...our uncertainty*. Recognize **His voice** when you can't see **His face**.

P. Slide11c (27) Be of good cheer/confidence - How can we? because of the next statement...

1. It is I (ἐγώ εἰμί) - What more do you need?

Q. Slide12a STORM GROWTH (28-31)

R. (28) Peter's life seemed to be a contradiction. *But we're no different*.

1. He seemed to have an identity crisis. He was Simon & he was Peter/petras/rock. *Never in doubt, yet often wrong*. He had great fear but he also had great faith. He could run as a coward and other times be strong. You can deny his Savior 3 times, but also preach 3000 souls to salvation.

S. Peter forgot one thing at this point - The meaning of his name, Rock/petros/stone.

1. But remember, anybody can sit in the boat & watch, it takes faith to leave the boat.

T. (29) Time for a great lesson to be learned, the lesson of *Come*.

1. In the feeding of the 5000 we learned He was **Provider**. Now, how would He *Slide12b* show Himself as **Protector** if they didn't ever need *protection*?

U. (29) Have faith on His word.

V. What happens when we're trying to love somebody, then they don't love us back.

Now the wave feels bigger than the word. It also happens when God tells us to forgive, but now the feeling of unforgiveness is rising up and splashing against the boat.

1. God wants to know...will you keep coming, and keep your eyes focused on something you can't see, and walk toward His word, or get wiped out by the wave?

a) Sometimes *I wave* can mess up your whole day. 1 neg comment from someone on FB

W. Slide12c (29) Peter's not walking on water but on a word, *come*.

1. He doesn't say, *Lord if it's You, stop the storm, change my circumstance*.
2. Instead, Peter asked for a **command** from God. And he gets 1 word...**come**.
 - a) And the way to **find out** is to **step out**.

3. Maybe you & I *in our storms* can start asking for a **command** from God, instead of **guarantee**. And we can learn to *walk on a Word*.

X. (30) Here is the **but** that almost buried Peter.

1. He saw the wind **about** him, his heart failed **in** him, then his foot failed **under** him.

Y. **Began to sink** - **The cause?** When he took his eyes off the Savior, & placed them on the circumstance.

Z. **Slide12d Lord Save me** - **Aren't those great words?**

1. **The Unbeliever can cry them** - **Lord** (you are God) **Save** (I am a sinner needing to be saved from my sins) **Me** (I'm personally in need).

2. **The Believer can cry them** - Lord save me from: *my enemy, my flesh, my greed, my lusts, my covetousness, my pride, my ego, my corrupt heart, my immoral mind, my doubt.*

AA.(31) **His response? Immediately.**

1. 1st He caught him, **then** He taught him. **Afterward**, his Lord took him by the hand...Peter sank no farther.

2. Peter, though wet to the skin, was a wiser man for his adventure. *Wetter but wiser*

BB.**Oh you of little faith** - I don't think a *rebuke*...because *a little faith* was considered **good**.

1. I **don't** think it was the **quality** of his faith, **nor** the **quantity** of his faith, **but** the **duration** of his faith. **It just stopped**. Like each of ours at times.

2. **Are you trying to live a mistake-free life?** *Failure is not an option it's a necessity.*

3. Because it is **the point** of this passage...**he had to fail** to learn that God is our **Protector/Deliverer/Savior**.

CC.**Peter knew when to cry out** - He didn't wait till he was *drowning*...**but** when he *began to sink*.

1. **This was a difficult situation for Peter**. But he grew in the knowledge of **himself & the Lord**.

DD.**Slide13a** Is this the story of Peter walking on water and then falling?

1. We can relate with Peter, *we did some pretty dumb stuff back in the 80s (90's)*.

2. Slide13b How about the story of, the 11 who never got out of the boat? [this might be a conspiracy theory but...when John tells this story in *his gospel*, he didn't even put the part about Peter in it]
3. Slide13c Never worry about anyone *in the boat* that is criticizing you. *Keep walking.*

EE. Then Jesus *held Peter under water* for 30 seconds & said, *don't do that again Rocky.*

1. Slide13d No the story is all about *God's grace*. About Jesus reaching down. About Jesus walking Peter back to the boat.
2. Jesus loves you when you *walk on water with Him*, and when *you're sinking*.
3. Slide13e Maybe it's *not* even a story about a *great faith*, but about *greater grace!*
 - a) A *grace* greater than my *failure*, greater than my *divorce*, greater than my *bankruptcy*, greater than the *layoff*, greater than my *addiction*, greater than my *slip-up*, better than my *screwup*. *Steven Furtick sermon*

FF. Slide13f Peter failed at what he set out to do...but Jesus succeeded w/exactly what He intended to do.

1. Why does Jesus command Peter to do something that He knew would end in failure? Why does Jesus have you start off a *relationship* that He knows will end in failure? Why does Jesus have you achieve something that He knows He's going to take away?

GG. Slide14a STORM PARTNER (32,33)

HH. Why didn't the wind cease until they were both back in the boat?

1. I think Jesus was giving Peter another shot at the *water-walking-thing*. His story was not going to end at him getting cut from *the water-walking-team*.
2. Jesus is not about *shaming us or embarrassing us*. Peter's story would not end until he had walked on water w/Jesus back to the boat.
3. Slide14b Isaiah reminds us, *When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.* 43:2,3a
 - a) He may not come when you think He should. He may wait till the boats as far away from land as possible...so that all human hope is gone.

(1) Every element we dread, His foot doth simply tread.

- II. The 1st time Jesus calmed the water, their reaction was *what manner of Man is this?* (Mt.8)
 Now their clear testimony is *Truly You are the Son of God.*
- JJ. (33) What did they do immediately, *they enjoyed God...they worshipped Him.*

IV. Slide15a **SEAL (SEa Air Land) (34-36)** *acronym*

- A. Slide15b Navy SEALs are trained to operate in all environments (Sea, Air, and Land) for which they're named. We watched Jesus operate on Sea & in the Air walking on water...now on land.
1. Our King is Master both on Land & Water.
- B. If the *hem of His Garment* is so rich w/blessing, how rich must be His *hand & heart?*
1. They came to Jesus for Physical healing, but what about Spiritual healing?
 2. Many want to prolong their life on earth, but do they come to secure their eternal lives?
- C. Slide16a Let's note...Peter is *still wet* [Jn.6:21 & *immediately* the boat was at the land where they were going]
1. Slide16b This is great to know, we can *worship wet!*
 2. We immediately want to *get em a towel, or a fresh change of clothes, at least a cover up.* Let's get em dry & all cleaned up first.
 3. At churches sometimes we don't want people to think that *we sink around here.* We do, but we don't want to show it. *Instead, we want to compare w/ each other, I only went down to my knees.* Ohhh, *I went down to my waist :(*
 4. At CM we need to continue over & over to promote, we have a *"wet section!"*
 Oh we make em sit in the back 1/2 of the church (jk).
 - a) We have *wet people, soaked people, saturated soggy saints.* And *we* need to learn to say, *I know your soggy but come-on, there's work to be done in the kingdom...you coming?* Jesus must have said, *come on Peter I need you wet, help me out.*
 - b) Slide16c Sometimes we have to *worship wet. Lead wet. Preach wet. Lead our families wet.*
- D. Slide17,18 Where should our **focus** be? Peter all wet, *aka soaked Simon.* Or, on Jesus' hand, *i.e.* Jesus is in control.

1. Focus on Jesus' hand. *For a righteous man may fall/sink 7 times, & rise again.* Prv.24:16
- E. *Slide19a* Last point...30 yrs later. Many Bible Scholars believe that Mark's gospel is a record of Peter's reports of the ministry of Christ. **Justin Martyr** referred to it as *the Memoirs of Peter*.
1. **Read** Mark 6:45-52 quickly. **Slide19b - What's missing? Peter!*
 2. The point was *never* about Peter walking on water. *The point was... We were in a terrible storm, and Jesus made it stop. And when He did, we *Slide19c knew He was the Son of God..Now write that down, and tell everyone Mark!*
- F. **Communion:** Bread - Cup