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| Matt 14:22-33  | Mission Impossible | Pinelands – 9am – 08/01/2023Thornton – 10:30am – 08/01/2023 |

I really enjoy **ACTION MOVIES…** *(maybe it is a guy thing)*

 ***“Top Gun” “Mission Impossible”***

There is a new ***“Mission Impossible”*** Movie coming out this year.

In Action Movies I love the way the actors seemingly…

Accomplish the **IMPOSSIBLE…** **Incredible feat!**

**During World War II…** The Marines had a slogan…

***"If it’s difficult, it would take a day or two;***

***if it’s impossible, it would take a little longer".***

We often find ourselves stuck in **IMPOSSIBLE situations.**

**The year ahead…**

seems to predict ***more* threats*, rather than* treats.**

Continued *Global warming,*

Continued *Load Shedding, Violence, Corruption.*

**We all face uncertainties…**

situations that are *impossible to solve…*

sickness’s that are *impossible to cure…*

burdens that are *impossible to bear…*

problems that are *impossible to muster…*

pasts that are *impossible to forget…*

weakness’s that are *impossible to overcome…*

habits that are *impossible to break…*

relationships that are *impossible to restore…*

hurts that are *impossible to mend....*

needs that are *impossible to meet.*

Being a limited human being…

we have much **IMPOSSIBILITY in life.**

Our hope is found in **Matt 19: 26…**

***“Jesus looked straight at them and answered,***

 ***‘This is impossible for human beings,***

 ***but for God everything is possible.’"***

So as we continue into **2023…**

**And…** ***If you want to accomplish something great this year…***

May I make the following suggestions…

**FIRSTLY…** **Draw Near To GOD** *(Last Week)*

Then to do the following 4 things…

**1. Don’t be… Afraid of your… Assumptions!2. Don’t… Attempt in your own… Abilities!
3. Don’t… Abide in your safe… Abode!
4. Don’t pay... Attention to your… Anxieties!**

**1. DRAW NEAR TO GOD…**

**And… DON’T BE AFRAID OF YOUR ASSUMPTIONS!**

When the disciples saw **Jesus** walking on the water…

***“They were terrified. "It's a ghost!" they said,***

***and screamed with fear*. (v.26)**

**The disciples** were rowing the boat against a gale and waves…

*Making very little progress*

**When their help came,** **Jesus** walking on water…

***they assumed…*** it was for their harm.

 ***The worst.***

**Our assumptions** are **SO** influenced by…

the ***world*** and the ***people*** around us.

 We need to be very careful who we listen to.

People around us can be classified in two categories…

 **The VDP’s** - Very Despairing People (Negative thinkers)

These are the people who…

*Push you away from your visions…* they derail you.

*Pull you out of your visions…* often they deceive you.

And discourage you.

They always see the ***impossibilities,*** ***never the possibilities.***

**The VIP’s** - Very Inspiring People (Positive thinkers)

These are the people who…

*Prompt us into a great vision….* prod us on

*Lift us up* when we feel exhausted in chasing our visions.

They always see the ***possibilities…***

*and focus less on the* ***impossibilities.***

***The Negative Thinkers see…*** Difficulty in every Opportunity! **But *the Positive Thinkers see…*** Opportunity in every Difficulty!

 **The Positive Thinkers…**

*See the Invisible, Feel the Intangible, Achieve the Impossible!*

**2) As we DRAW NEAR TO GOD…**

**And… DON’T ATTEMPT IN YOUR OWN ABILITIES!**

Hear what **Peter** says…  ***"Lord, if it is really you, order me to***

***come out on the water to you."*  (vs 28)**

**Peter was…** The ***sea expert…***

The ***fisherman with honors.***

**Jesus was…** ***The carpenter…***

**NOT** known as *a fisherman…*

Or as an *expert of the seas.*

**But** **Peter** **implored the Lord…**

***“If it is really you…***

 ***Command me to come out walking on the water.”***

**We often look** to our ***credentials*** and ***evaluate or project…***

**what we can…** do or not do…

accomplish or not accomplish…

**what our skills and abilities are.**

**We do not think we can…**

*Move beyond our Abilities…*

*Do anything that* **does not** *include our skill set…*

 Degrees or credentials.

***Yet all we need is…*** **God’s Approval…**

 ***“Lord if it is really you… tell me…”***

Our skills and abilities are… **THE TOOLS…**

***that God uses*** to accomplish his work…

***In us, With us and Through us.***

We also need to have a **Practical Attitude** towards Life.

**Peter** was very Practical in his ***ATTITUDE*** towards ***LIFE***

**John Ortberg** said… ***“If you want to walk on water***

 ***you need to get out of the boat.”***

That is practical… ***You have to do something…***

**Paul** reminds us we cannot do this alone… (Phil 4:13)

 ***"For I can do all things through Christ***

***who strengthens me.”***

**3. DRAW NEAR TO GOD…**

 **And… DON’T ABIDE IN YOUR SAFE ABODE!**

***"Come!" answered Jesus. So Peter got out of the boat***

***and started walking on the water to Jesus.*  (vs 29)**

**Peter** could **NOT** have experienced walking on water…

if he **DID NOT** ***venture overboard.***

**Remember…** The waves are high and the wind was fierce…

It must have **felt pretty safe**

to stay in the **boat.**

**We love to serve God in our** **COMFORT ZONES.**

**But** when the ***days are tough*** and the ***tide is against us…***

We re-assess our commitment… ***And often we retreat.***

**I am sure** that some **disciples** were in the boat…

 Cheering **Peter** on… ***“Go Peter Go”***

 **Happy** he was the one **out there** and **not them.**

**Sometimes** we are happy there are those ***out there…***

 Doing what God wants them to do…

 ***While*** we sit in the comfort of our **BOATS.**

 ***We cheer them on…***

 Attend church, go to shared life group,

 Listen to great testimonies,

 Participate in church events…

**BUT…** **never leave our comfort zones.**

**BUT…** there are those ***who gallantly climb overboard…***

***Leaving*** *their comfort zones and…*

 Endeavor to discover what God can do through them.

**If we want to experience something of great…**

We **need to get out** of our comfort zones.

**A Wise saying…**

***"We cannot expect great things from God if we***

***cannot attempt great things for Him!"***

**Remember…**

 ***"The Journey of a Thousand Km begins with ONE STEP!"***

**4. DRAW NEAR TO GOD…**

 **And… DON’T PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR ANXIETIES!**

***“But when he noticed the strong wind and high waves,***

 ***he was afraid and started to sink down in the water.***

 ***"Save me, Lord!" he cried.”* (vs 30)**

**Peter** walked on water and was enjoying the glory of that miracle.

 That was when **his eyes were on Jesus.**

**Peter’s** experience teaches us… ***Don’t get Disturbed in your Focus***

You can **imagine…**

***The fierce wind and the waves pounding the boat…***

**When** **Peter** went over the side of the boat…

those did not ***disturb him.***

**So suddenly**, when he was…

***disturbed by the same waves and winds…***

**He starts to sink.**

**The world, Circumstances, people…**

***distracts us… delays us… and divert us.***

Our World, Circumstances and those around us…

 will always be there.

**Don’t get disturbed or distracted** in your focus.

***Focus on Jesus alone.***

**Peter’s** **Experience teaches us…**

***Not to get defeated by our fears.***

When Peter’s eyes were on **Jesus…** **he had faith.**

When he was out-of-focus on **Jesus…** **he had fears.**

**We *HIDE* our fears behind our…**

*high walls, pricey houses*

*and other worldly securities.*

**FEAR** is one of satan’s *greatest weapons…*

**Scripture says…** ***“He prowls around like a roaring lion”***

 **Not to devour us… BUT… to scare us**

We live in a world of **FEARS…**

But there is always a light at the end of the Tunnel.

**That Light is Jesus…** ***The light of the World…***

We must focus our attention on Him and Him alone.

**Facing 2023** alone and in our own strength…

 ***Is an Impossible Mission***

**BUT…** ***"WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!"***

**Do your part… Draw near to God and…**

**1. Don’t be… Afraid of your… Assumptions!2. Don’t… Attempt in your own… Abilities!
3. Don’t… Abide in your safe… Abode!
4. Don’t pay... Attention to your… Anxieties!**

**MAY WE EXPERIENCE…**

**God’s mighty works transpire in our *LIVES***

**and our *MINISTRIES.***

**Matthew 14:22-33 Jesus Walks on the Water**

Then Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people away. After sending the people away, he went up a hill by himself to pray. When evening came, Jesus was there alone; and by this time the boat was far out in the lake, tossed about by the waves, because the wind was blowing against it.

Between three and six o'clock in the morning Jesus came to the disciples, walking on the water. When they saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. “It's a ghost!” they said, and screamed with fear.

Jesus spoke to them at once. “Courage!” he said. “It is I. Don't be afraid!”

Then Peter spoke up. “Lord, if it is really you, order me to come out on the water to you.”

“Come!” answered Jesus. So Peter got out of the boat and started walking on the water to Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he was afraid and started to sink down in the water. “Save me, Lord!” he cried.

At once Jesus reached out and grabbed hold of him and said, “What little faith you have! Why did you doubt?”

They both got into the boat, and the wind died down. Then the disciples in the boat worshiped Jesus. “Truly you are the Son of God!” they exclaimed.