

Morning Worship

September 1, 2019

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ ---

Worship Leader — Romey Keith Davis

Piano — Alva Lou Schottel

As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Welcome and Fellowship

Allan/People

Scripture Reading

Romey Keith Davis

Hymn #208 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* Romey/People

Worship Prayer

Allan Lane

Hymn #216 *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* Romey/People

Offering Prayer

John Lewis

Tithes and Offerings

People

Offering Music

Hymn #211

I Love Thee

Romey/People

Hymn #215

Majesty

Romey/People

Special Music

Message

Bro. Allan

Hymn #475 *Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone* Romey/People

Prayer Concerns

Allan/People

Closing Chorus # 178

He Is Lord

Romey/People

Jesus Defies Physics

Matthew 14:22-33

A young man named Jimmy had heard all his life how his father, his grandfather and even his great-grandfather, all "walked on water" on their 21st birthday. It was a tradition handed down through the generations. When the day of his 21st birthday came, Jimmy believed that if they could do it, so could he. He, too, would be given this. So off he went in a boat with his friend. When he got out in the middle of the lake, he got up and stepped out of the boat, fell in the water and almost drowned. The next day, Jimmy asked his grandmother why he wasn't given the same gift as the others in his family. She humbled him a little by reminding him that his father, grandfather and great-grandfather had all been born in February, not in August, as he was.

Someone said of our text today, *Peter fails, but Grace avails.*

In the midst of the storms of life, Jesus will walk on the water of our problems and come to our rescue - if we will call on Him.

The **World English Dictionary** defines rescue in this way: "to bring someone or something out of danger, harm, or attack...and to deliver or save." This story is about rescue on many levels. The storyline tells us all we need to know. Jesus sent His

disciples to the other side of the lake. In fact, the text says, He "made" them get into the boat and go to the other side. Could it be because that is where the gospel work is needed? That truth needs to burn into our hearts. The church of the Lord Jesus Christ, His disciples are task with the greatest assignment known to mankind. We have the divine task of finding people who need Christ, showing people the way, and bringing them to Him.

Honestly, the church in America today (even us) seems to have lost our way when it comes to Christ's divine assignment for us. It would appear that we have substituted many other good things, really good things, for the main thing. What has resulted is a church which has become something different than what Jesus had in mind. While Jesus has sent us out, to go to the other side, and perform His work – could it be that we now need Jesus to come and rescue us? He will.

1. A Personal Response.

In verses 24-25 we discover the disciples doing what Jesus told them to do and going where He told them to go, but they found themselves in trouble. Remember that, on the boat, was at least four professional fishermen – so they knew their way around boats and the water. But the text says, "They were beaten and blown about by the wind because the wind was against them." The 'Fourth watch' was considered from 3am to 6am so we know that when they should have been resting, they were fighting the storm. What a picture of the church and Christ followers today.

We are sent out by the very words of Jesus to do the work of Jesus and that work is to 'seek and save those who are lost.' Many times, when we are brave enough to go and do His will, we find ourselves in a storm. The winds of secularism beat at us and the waves of tradition blow against us. They even threaten to capsize our ship. It becomes unnerving, frightening, and discouraging.

One of the amazing parts of this story is that it never mentions about 'going back.' This seems to be a common theme among God's people. We start out for the Lord, we run into opposition, and then we make the unilateral decision to turn around and go back where we started. Don't you wish you had a dime for every time the Children of Israel made that statement as they left the captivity of Egypt? It mattered not what would happen, but at the first sign of struggle they would respond, "It would have been better to be in Egypt" which, in essence said, "Leave us in bondage."

It is in the midst of the storm that Jesus came to the disciples. This was personal. He had sent them out there and was not going to leave them to fend for themselves. It is the same for us. When we chose to step out of our will and into His will, we may well experience opposition, but if we'll stay the course, He'll come to us. By the way, notice that the very thing which was the danger to the disciples, Jesus was walking on. The waves which was beating up the group, was the path Jesus used to walk to them. His response formed words of comfort, "It is I, don't be afraid." He said, "Take heart."

2. A Powerful Response.

Peter, being Peter (there's one in every crowd), wanting to confirm and affirm that this was Jesus, said, "Okay – but 'if it's you' – does that not sound just like us? It's more like "Jesus, prove yourself. Do something that is humanly impossible." Wouldn't you say that 'walking on water' is beyond the human capability? Sometimes, when our faith is weak – we ask for a special sign to assure us – and this is exactly what Peter was doing. Now don't miss this: Our Lord is not under any obligation to do this, but from time to time He does (like He did with Peter). I submit that Peter might have been a little surprised when Jesus simply said, "Come." He didn't tell Peter to watch his

step, be careful about getting off the boat, or even take off your sandals – He simply said, “COME.” When reading this word, we are reminded of how simply our Lord’s call to us is. He says, “Come. Come, follow me.” Is that not exactly what Peter was doing? To follow someone means you walk where they walk. Jesus was walking on water – so, why not follow?

Today, Jesus’ call to us is simply to “Come. Come walk where I’m walking, come go where I’m going, and come do what I’m doing.” This story also assures us that where He guides, He provides, where He calls, He empowers, and where He leads – we can go. There is a hymn entitled, “Wherever He Leads, I’ll Go” which we have sung with ‘gusto.’ But what if He calls you to get out of the boat – and step out on the water? It was a powerful response to Peter and can be a powerful call to us. Candidly, I believe that He DOES call us to step out of the boat of our comfort, our convenience, and even our schedule to do for Him what we have never done before. He calls us to walk where we don’t even think we can walk (even on the water). He calls us to see the lost, to seek out the lost, and to share Jesus with the lost. Why? It is because He came to seek and to save the lost.

This means putting ourselves into a place, where if the Lord doesn’t come through, we’ll fail. Think about it: When Peter stepped out, where no man had gone before, with full trust in the Lord, He did what no other man had ever done. This is the powerful call of Christ to us!

Some say, “Peter failed.” True, but at least he got to walk on the water. As long as his complete focus was on Jesus, he walked in victory. When he lost focus, He sank – but Jesus didn’t leave Him.

3. A Pragmatic Response.

Don’t miss this picture: Peter is doing what no one else has ever done or even should be able to do – because His focus is on Jesus. When our focus is on Jesus, we’ll find ourselves doing what we think is impossible. We may find ourselves discovering people who need Christ and the church, and actually becoming the voice of the gospel for Christ through which people are being saved. However, when we do like Peter did and begin to look around, instead of at Jesus, we may find ourselves sinking in the waters of doubt. How many times have we started our like Peter, full of faith and courage, only to look around at people, the task, or the situation, and begin to doubt whether we can do it, even though we know our Lord has called us to it?

When Peter took his eyes off of Jesus – bad things began to happen. Notice that Jesus hadn’t move away from Peter, and we can presume Peter was getting closer to Jesus. Peter had simply stopped focusing on the One who was his source of strength. The result was that he began to see the storm and not the savior, so the storm began to swallow him. How many times could we retell this type of story? We begin fresh and new on our journey of following Jesus’ leading only to lose our focus and begin to sink (lose focus, lose commitment, lose out).

Perhaps that’s where you are today, but here’s the good news. When Peter began to falter, Jesus didn’t break and run. Rather, Peter recognized his failure and cried out for help (this is key), and Jesus came “immediately.” Isn’t it interesting that Jesus didn’t let Peter “learn his lesson” by letting him go under a couple of times? That might have been our way. But not the way Jesus does it. At Peter’s cry, Jesus came immediately, reached out His hand, took hold of Peter, and lifted him out of the water into the boat. Jesus will do the same for you, IF you ask.

4. A Preferred Response.

When Jesus was allowed to 'come to the rescue' two things happened. First, when Jesus rescued Peter and got into the boat with him, the storm ceased. Jesus has a way of calming the storm when we commit to Him. Second, Jesus took care of Peter (that one who walked with Him) in such a way that everyone bowed in worship saying, "Truly, YOU ARE the Son of God." We are reminded that the confession of Peter, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God" came AFTER this experience. Peter had to step out in faith before he became convinced. By the way, there is no record that anyone on the boat credited Peter for walking on the water.

Jesus does things for, in, and through us, that He might be lifted up, because only when He is lifted up can people be drawn to Him and brought from darkness to light and death to life! It is only in this way that Jesus comes to our and their rescue.

The last thing to learn from this story is the example Jesus gives us about how we can see and know this type of divine and supernatural work.

5. A Proper Response.

In verses 13-21 we find the story of Jesus feeding the 5000. What a miracle that was. After doing this, He sent His disciples on their way while He stopped to reload. Ever wonder how those six-shooters on old Westerns were always able to shoot 2 dozen times or more (movie magic) before a reload. Jesus never lost sight of the truth that His earthly power was found in His heavenly connection (Verse 23). It has been said many times that prayer is the foundation and here we find Jesus demonstrating this truth. If we want to become the people and church God wants us to be it starts with prayer. Jesus shows us that we must spend time alone in prayer with God before we can experience the joy of the corporate prayer. The power or the weakness of a church and their prayer life is built on the private, fervent prayers of her people. If there is no ongoing prayer, then there is no ongoing connection and no ongoing power for the church. We only get what mankind can produce.

We Receive What We Ask For!

You for Christ

All baseball fans have heard of the late Yogi Berra, legendary catcher for the New York Yankees in the 1950's. He had an amazing career at the plate, offensively and defensively. Some consider him the greatest catcher in the history of baseball; his lifetime batting average of .285 and great defensive skills got him inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1972. You might have heard a few of his "Yogi-isms." But as good a hitter as he was, Yogi's peers remember him more for his endless chatter during the game, particularly behind the plate, where he talked to the opposing batters in order to distract them.

Hank Aaron, another Hall of Famer, tells the story about the 1958 World Series, with Yogi behind the plate, and Hank, the chief power hitter for the Milwaukee Braves up to bat. As usual Yogi was keeping up his ceaseless chatter, intended to motivate his teammates and distract Milwaukee's batters.

As Aaron came to the plate, Yogi tried to distract him by saying, "Henry, you're holding the bat wrong. You're supposed to hold it so you can read the trademark." Aaron responded by driving the next pitch into the left-field bleachers. After rounding the bases and crossing home plate, Aaron looked at Berra and said, "I came to hit, not to read."

Yogi knew something about people. He knew that if he could distract a batter for even a moment, he could break their concentration and cause them to fail. Distraction brought doubt into a hitter's mind, and there was no one better at that than Yogi. It simply didn't work on the focused Hank Aaron.

According to a survey done by Princeton University's Religion Research Centre, 82% of all

adults either agree fully or mostly with the following statement: "Even today, miracles are performed by the Power of God." Strange, that in world apparently seduced by rationality and science and all things *National Geographic*, we still have 82% of all adults that believe in the miraculous. Personally, it appears that bears testimony to humanity's desperate need for faith and God's undeniable presence in the world. So what's the problem? If people are so hungry for God and long for faith, then why aren't we experiencing revival on a daily basis? Could it be that our world is distracted? Could it be that the church is distracted? Is it possible we are waiting for God when really God is waiting on us?

I heard the story of a young guy who was saved at a Youth for Christ event. He responded to the altar call and prayed to receive Jesus as his Savior. Afterward, the speaker asked the young man was there a particular part of the message that had caused him to finally surrender to Jesus. The young man said it was nothing about the message. During the meeting someone was standing in front of the "Youth for Christ" banner blocking the letters "th" in Youth. All he could read was "You for Christ." It started him to thinking, "Yes. Me for Christ" and that very thought gripped him. It was enough.

What is distracting you from being "for Christ?"

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan ☺

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, September 1, 2019

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Larry McKahan, John Lewis, George Burgess, Bill Schottel

Alternate: Ken Nice

Evening Worship 6:30 pm

Wednesday, September 4

Prayer/Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Sunday, September 8, 2019

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Fred Kerns, Dillon Burgess, Ken Nice, Don Sharp

Alternate: LeRoy Bush

Evening Worship 6:30 pm

Wednesday, September 11

Prayer Warriors10:00 am

Prayer/Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Up-Coming Events

September 11 — Prayer Warriors 10 am

September 15 — Luncheon and Business Meeting

September 14 — Missouri Baptist Children's Home

Apple Festival, Raymore, MO 1-3 pm

September 22 — SJBA Annual Meeting, 4:00 pm,

McCarthy

September 23 — Lanes leave for Israel

September 25 — See You At the Pole

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

Sunday Night

We will have Sunday Night service tonight. We continue to study some of the commands of Jesus. Come study together with our church family.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

We really enjoyed the *Anxious for Nothing* study by Max Lucado, but we finished the last session this past Wednesday night. Therefore, we will begin a new study this coming week. Won't you please attend and pray for the direction of our church?

Missouri Baptist Children's Home

Apple Festival 2019

First Baptist Church

Raymore, MO

September 14

1:00 pm—3:00pm

Urgent Prayer Need

Youth Sunday School Teacher

Is God calling you to be a part of building up our youth program and leading teens in

discipleship? Praise the Lord! One person has already expressed a sense of God's call, but it's a big job. It would be good to have more than one person. Pray about it! God may be calling you, too! For more information, talk to Bro. Allan.

Luncheon and Business Meeting

September 15, 2019

Immediately after our morning worship time.

SEE YOU
AT THE POLE
SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

For the Record-

Attendance: August 25, 2019

Sunday School.....	17
Visitors.....	0
Total.....	17
Contacts Made.....	0
Morning Worship.....	42
Sunday Night	10
Children's Worship	N/A
Wednesday Night	10

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget	\$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ...	\$ 1,838.77
Long Family – July	\$ 120.00

Offering Received by Mail:

Toni Wyrick

September Counting Team:

Larry McKahan and Mike Green

September Van Driver:

Mike Green

Call 232-3747 before 8 am

September Member Birthdays:

05...Nellie Reynolds
12...Grant Schottel
20...Elmer Mayse
20...LoLeta Middleton
22...Rachael Molloy
23...Kenny Kirkpatrick
29...Lindsey (Mayse) Rasmussen

September Anniversaries

Al and Karen Shirley
September 26, 2009

Prayer Requests ...

John Lewis
Jack and Flo Conard
Jeanette Shirley
Brigida and Jim Winans
Curtis Conard
Chuck and Gloria Stewart
Family and Friends of Alicia McKinnon
June Fritchle—infection recovery
Mike Green—knee recovery
Lillie Williams—surgery recovery
Gary Hurst—cancer
Susie Long—Alice Coat's Sister
Swymeller's Grandsons—kidneys
Shirley Wilson—strength and recovery
Sandy and Stanley Wilson
Ruth Anne Bush—healing
Sharri Duty
Linda Huff—PTL! Cancer free!
Romey Keith Davis—Music
Marcia and Don Hart—blessings
Arlette Duty—strength
Peggy & Gary Fewins—Peggy's health
Donna and Bill Dunn—health
Karissa and Matt Long and family
Stephanie & Jason Terpack—guidance
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son-PTL!
Lisa Bowers—Conard's daughter-PTL!
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister
Doris Richardson Elmer Mayse
The Waters Family Kevin Duty
Betty Campbell Tim Izer
Dottie Wildberger Ann Riddle
Keon McKahan Nellie Reynolds

Jozy Winans Kenny Duty
Pat Means Buddy Means
Bill & Juanita Debbie Sands
Pat Puckett Curtis Conard
Brenda Burgess Seth Long
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service Women and Men
Terrorism in our world

Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
