

Week 4 – Persevering Faith

Week of 11/19

Matthew 14:22-33

1. Quickly read over the first part of Ch. 14 to gain insight on the context of this chapter, then focus in on verses 22-33. What do verses 22 and 23 teach us about Jesus? What is significant about the timing of Jesus' actions. *Refer to verses 13-14.*
2. Keeping in mind the context of what happened the previous day, what do we learn about the disciples from this story?
3. Obviously, the disciples were not expecting Jesus to come to them in the way that he did, walking on water. How does his unexpected arrival reflect the rest of his life and purpose?
4. Does Peter's response and request to Jesus surprise you? Why or why not? Do you think his was the right response? What do you think your reaction would have been in that moment?

5. Previously (see Matthew 8:23-27), Jesus calmed the storm when the disciples were afraid. How does the story of Jesus walking on water compare to him calming the storm? How are they different? Is there a different lesson to be learned from each?
6. Sometimes God wants us to ride out the storm and trust that he's in control. Sometimes he wants us to get out of the boat and take action to do what seems impossible or ridiculous. Both situations take persevering faith. Can you give an example of one or both scenarios that have occurred in your life?
7. In what way do you feel like God is asking you to trust him right now?
8. How does the story in Matthew 14:22-32 reflect the Gospel? How can we use this story to help us preach the Gospel to ourselves daily?