



DGM Message Summary: Don't Look Down

Topic: How do you get through a crisis?

Message Summary: Having faith, smiling and trusting God in a crisis and challenging situations is the only way to get to the other side of them. Jesus asked His disciples to get in a boat and go across the lake and meet Him there later. A big storm wreaked havoc on the waters greatly extending the time it took for these otherwise rugged and seaworthy men to make the trip. They took their eyes off of Jesus' words and focused on the storm and their boat. They were scared to death. Jesus comes to their rescue and exhorts them to be of good cheer, have faith in Him, trust His word and don't look down. You will make it to the other side if you follow Jesus and don't take your eyes off of Him.

Scriptural References:

- **Matthew 14:22-33**

Key Points:

- Jesus made his disciples get into the boat; they must've been reluctant.
- They knew a storm was coming; they were aware.
- Jesus wanted to teach them to trust Him even above their own fears.
- You are not out of God's will by facing some adversity or have some head wind.
- When each of us do our part, we all win.
- A ship is safest in the harbor, but that's not what it was built for.
- Many of us want a safe and risk-free ship, but that's not what we were built for.
- Boat was in the middle of the sea – but Jesus said that the time wasn't right yet.
- Sometimes we help people too quickly.
- God only gives you what you can handle.
- If God has a challenging situation for us, we must have what it takes to accomplish it – sometimes we may not see it, but it's deep within us.
- Should've been a two-hour trip, but the disciples had been rowing for nine hours when Jesus showed up.
- We can become so cynical that when God may be doing His finest work, we can think of a thousand things that He could've done better.
- Jesus says the opposite of what the disciples were feeling:
 - He says, "Be of good cheer."

- § Unless we can rejoice in the middle of it, we probably aren't going to be able to come out of it and we're not going to get on the other side of it.
- It takes faith to smile:
 - § When water is in your boat.
 - § When your boat's going under.
 - § And believe God's will when nothing seems to be working out.
 - § When you're off schedule and you're thinking, "surely God would've gotten me to the other side of this issue by now."
 - § James said it another way, "Consider it pure joy whenever you run into trials."
- Jesus said, "Be of good cheer, it is I."
 - § Peter answered, "Lord, if it is you."
 - § Once you determine it's God, all the important questions are answered.
 - § We don't need half of the things we think we need in our lives to accomplish God's will.
 - We start trusting in the instruments to get what we want in our lives.
 - We start trusting people instead of God.
 - § I'm not trusting nobody's boat, I'm not trusting a country, I'm not trusting a man...
 - I'm trusting God to get me to the place He wants me to go.
- "When Peter had come down out of the boat, He walked to go to Jesus."
- Don't look down, keep looking at Jesus.
- Some of us can be so analytical that we can talk ourselves out of the change God wants to make in our lives.
- Soon as Jesus got in the boat, the storm stopped.
 - Your test will last until the lesson is learned.
 - Some storms are self-inflicted.
 - And everyone in the boat worshipped Him.