



DGM Message Title: Keep Walking: Discipleship Part 2

Topic: It's Just a Distraction

Sermon Date: 1/7/2018

Message Summary: There are times when we get distracted by daily things. The enemy wants to use things we do every day to distract us from getting to know God and getting deep in his word. If you are in his word God is always on time and will not give you more than you can handle.

Scriptural References: (NKJV)

- John 8:31-32
- Matthew 14:22-23
- Mathew 14:26
- John 15:7
- Matthew 14:31-32

Key Points:

An important aspect of the Godfidence Guide:

- Read God's Word daily.
 - Disciples know God's Word and they develop healthy habits.
- 2018 is the "Year of the Disciple."
 - Want to move you from being a believer into becoming a disciple to receive the benefits and rewards of being a disciple.
 - Faith comes by hearing.

John 8:31 (NKJV)

- Being a believer is very different than being a disciple.
 - Not all believers are disciples, but all disciples are believers.
- One of the major differences between a disciple and a believer is that ***a believer caters to themselves whereas disciples abandons themselves.***
 - There is a joy in abandonment; your self-consciousness and insecurities begin to fall by the wayside.
 - You can open yourself up to the purposes and power of God when you abandon yourself.
- ***The first stop to discipleship is knowing the truth.***
- **Godfidence Guide: 7 Checkpoints of Discipleship**
 - Read your Bible daily.
 - Pray continually.

- Attend church weekly.
- Serve faithfully.
- Give generously.
- Invite others personally.
- Share your faith confidently.
- These are measurable items.
- A lot of people don't want measurable. They say they follow their heart because it is not measurable.
- When you do things that can be measured, that is when you can be accountable.
- "A person who won't read has no advantage over a person who can't read." – Mark Twain

John 8:32 (NKJV)

- The truth shall set you free!
 - The Goal of being a Disciple is being free!
 - Freedom depends on what you know.
 - ***The reason we are in bondage is because of the things we don't know.***
 - ***There is no teacher as wise as the Bible, no friend as loyal as the Bible, and no problem too difficult for this Book to solve.***

Matthew 14:22 (NKJV)

- You are not out of God's will just because contrary winds are blowing against you.
- If you never bump into the devil, it is because you and the devil are running in the same direction.
 - Normal disciple living involves challenges and will cause things to get into your way.
 - There are going to be challenges but God will get you through it.
 - Every encounter is an opportunity to pray.
 - There's nothing more valuable you can do from the heart than to pray for another person.

Matthew 14:23 (NKJV)

- Jesus went alone to pray, so there is nothing wrong with being alone.
 - The sun is alone all during the day, but it keeps itself from shining.
 - You can still shine even though through the journey, you may be by yourself.
- A ship is safest in the harbor.
 - But that is not what it is built for.
 - Disciples launch out into the deep.
 - If you want to become a disciple, you have to get past safety and comfort, the point of no return, so God can show up.
 - People living in the shallow waters don't really know if God is real; they know He is convenient.
 - People living in the deep know that God will always come on time.
 - God only gives us what we can handle.
 - God sees things in you that you don't see in yourself.
 - There will be times when you feel off-schedule because things don't always go exactly as you planned.

Matthew 14:24-25

- The disciples are out in the middle of the sea, and the winds are contrary.
- God only give us what we can handle.
 - Apparently, God must think you are hard core.
 - If He put you in that situation, He must see something in you that you don't see in yourself.
 - The disciples are in this storm for 9 hours (although it was only a 2-hour trip), but they are still in the will of God.
 - In the will of God, you will have moments when you feel things are a little off schedule.
 - For disciples (those who launch out into the deep) things will not always go exactly as you planned.
 - But this is the place where our faith is strengthened.
 - By this time, they would have had nothing left.
 - I have learned that when I am down to nothing, that's when God is up to something.

Matthew 14:26-27

- The disciples are tired and at the end of themselves.
- In the middle of the storm they discovered something scarier.
 - Jesus came to them walking on the water.
 - Jesus was showing the disciples that He is still above everything trying to take them down.
 - Jesus wanted them to know that He had the authority and power over their circumstances.
 - In the middle of your storm, you must have a picture of God being high and lifted up; have a revelation of a God bigger than what you are going through.
 - Life may have taken you on a little detour, but you must know that God is still on the throne.
- When God does something that He has never done in your life before, it can be scary.
- When you see the type of raw power resident in Jesus over nature, you can't help but to be a little fearful, but it is more of an "awe" of who He is and not being fearful of Him.
- People who know God, know that there is a fear we have.
 - There is a reverential fear of the Almighty.
 - As you get into the Bible, get a revelation of how big and awesome God is.
 - The fear of God is a healthy thing.
- In the middle of the storm, the disciples are tired and are depending on each other to get them through it.
 - Have you ever looked at everybody in your life to help you get through your situation?
 - Then Jesus comes to the disciples on the water and tells them to be of good cheer.
 - Jesus was trying to teach them that until they learn to rejoice in the middle of your storm, they will not get through it.

- You have to belief in the strength while you are going through something, not just when you get out.
- Jesus had to remind them that they were alright even in the middle of their exhaustion.
- If God can't keep you, then He is not God.

Matthew 14:28

- Peter wanted Jesus to identify Himself not explain Himself.
- Part of being a disciple is rediscovering God's identity.
 - We do this by spending time reading and trusting the Word of God.
- We don't need half the things we think we need to do God's will in our lives.
- All we need is His word and to act on it.
 - Moses didn't need a boat to cross the Red Sea, only a rod.
 - Abraham and Sarah didn't have to be young to have a baby, they only needed a promise.
 - Gideon didn't need 32,000 soldiers to defeat the Midianites, he only needed 300.
- ***If you don't know what God's Word says, then you'll never know what you are missing out on.***
- The impossible and the unimaginable is hidden in the Word of God and that's why the enemy wants to keep it from you.
- Once the Word of God is in you, you will start doing things MAN says you can't.
 - You have to choose who your authority is: God or man?
 - You must have confidence in God and not the resources (whether they are people or things) God gives you.
 - Just put one foot in front of the other and keep going until you get to the other side. You don't owe anyone an explanation; just do it!
 - People will encourage you to over analyze yourself out of a miracle.
 - 100 years ago, scientists could not figure out why bees fly; their big body didn't keep them from flying or buzzing.
- The enemy can't stop God's Word in your life but he can distract you.
 - He can't stop God's Word in our lives, so his strategy is to distract us.
 - He distracts us with media so that we spend more time watching TV or being on our phones instead of being in the Word.
- Peter didn't need to be saved from the storm; he needed to be saved from himself.
- He needed to be saved from his distractions.
 - ***You can't do big things being distracted by little things.***
 - Some small things the devil distracts us with is TV.
 - Some of the things we watch are not good for us.
 - Watch your shows, but make sure you read God's Word first, and after a while, you will stop watching those shows, because the Word of God will get in you.

John 15:7

- As a disciple, if you stick with or abide in God's Word, you can ask for what you desire, and it will be done for you.
- Even a blind squirrel gets a nut every now and then.
 - You should be desiring regularly answered prayer not looking for your prayers to be answered every once in a while.

Matthew 14:31

- God will be there for us even when we fall short, but let's fall short in shooting for something better or greater.
 - Let's set some goals better than we did last year.
- When you become a disciple, you will learn things that others can't learn.

Matthew 14:32

- Peter started sinking and Jesus helped him up out of the water.
- The first name Peter called was Jesus and He was there.
- Jesus helped Peter and gave him a second chance.
- God is a God of second chances (Peter walked on the water twice).
 - Peter walked on the water once in going to Jesus and walked on the water a second time in returning to the boat with Jesus.
- If you put first what needs to be put first, you can finish what you started.
- You're going to mess up and make mistakes, but it is part of growing and learning and being a disciple.
- Don't let the fear of what might happen, make nothing happen.
 - The promise God has given us is not dependent on the weather, it depends on us keep walking.
 - Don't be married to the weather (your circumstances, issues or problems); stay focused on God.
- The only thing that matters is that Peter continued to walk to Jesus, and that is what we need to do.
 - You are not responsible for trying to figure everything out, your sole responsibility is to just keep walking while you are trusting God.