

## Jesus Christ Our Lifeline

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### Introduction: “Will Your Anchor Hold Through the Storms of Life?”

- A. What “anchor” do *you* reply upon to carry you through the “storms of life”?
  - 1. Every person needs an anchor, something that will keep them steadfast and secure during the trials of life.
  - 2. Without a foundation, “the house of life” will collapse! (**Luke 6:49**).
- B. People of the world make their anchor to be unreliable things (e.g., career, education, money, possessions, government, human organization, etc.).
- C. The only anchor that can sustain us in life is our hope in Jesus Christ! (**Heb. 6:19**).
  - 1. In the tempests or trials of life, we can be at peace and be calm because of our hope of salvation in Jesus Christ!
  - 2. To stay strong and firm in our faith, we need to put our hope and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

### I. When Tossed by “the Waves of Life.”

- A. The trials of life can be very wearisome (**Mat. 14:22-24**).
  - 1. The disciples were no doubt getting tired; “*the wind was against them.*” (i.e., adverse, unfavorable, contrary) and they were straining to row (**Mark 6:48**).
  - 2. There are times in our lives when life seems very “contrary” and “the wind” is against us; So much so that it wears us out!
- B. Sometimes the trials of life can be scary (**Mat. 14:25; cf. John 6:17-18**).
  - 1. The disciples were being tossed about by a powerful, adverse wind storm; It was dark; it was struggle to row the boat; They were likely very tired and they were in the middle of the sea (Mat. 14:24): **A scary situation!**
  - 2. We may find ourselves in certain situations in life that are dark, gloomy, vulnerable, and frightening.
- C. Trials and temptations are for the testing of our faith (**1 Pet. 1:6-7**).
  - 1. Trials are important to prove ourselves to be genuine children of God and not merely “fair-weather” friends of the Lord.
  - 2. Yet, knowing that trials are for testing our faith does not necessarily make the trials that much easier.
  - 3. How then is it possible for us to endure the trials of life victoriously?

### II. We Must Keep Our Focus on Christ.

- A. Christ gives us the courage to move forward in life (**Mat. 14:26-29**).
  - 1. The disciples were afraid initially when they saw Jesus walking on the water
    - a. They thought He was a ghost; They were spooked!
    - b. Jesus assures and comforts His disciples that it is He.
  - 2. Like Peter, when we are in the middle of a “stormy” situation, we can gain courage and strength in Christ to move forward in life (**Phil. 4:13**).
  - 3. We can successfully endure the trials of life when we put our faith in the Lord (**Ps. 9:9-10**); Just think about the amount of trust Peter had to have had in Jesus!

4. Trusting in the Lord requires confident faith in the promises given by God.
  - a. Jesus said to Peter “Come” - Peter believed and he began to walk!
  - b. It means taking God’s word for it; *Trusting* in God’s word!
  - c. If only we would respond to the Lord in the same way! (**2 Cor 12:7-10**).
- B. Remember the “helping hand” of the Lord when in life you begin to “sink.”
  1. Peter was doing just fine when he kept his faith and focus on Jesus (**Mt 14:29**).
  2. It wasn’t until Peter took his eyes off of Jesus and on to the wind did he begin to doubt and fear and began to sink. (**Mat. 14:30**).
  3. Many have condemned Peter, but sometimes we behave just like Peter when trials come our way. *We lack faith, we panic, and we begin to “sink.”*
  4. We need to remember that the Lord is **always** there for us.
    - a. When we feel a sense of desperation, we need to call out to the Lord and say, “Lord, save me!” (**Mat. 14:31**).
    - b. Even when we fail Christ and doubt Him, we can return to Him in repentance and grab on to the helping hand of the Lord (**Ps. 138:7**).
    - c. When challenges are weighing us down, we need to remember the words of Jesus (**Mat. 11:28-30**).
  5. When Jesus got into the boat, the wind ceased (**Mat. 14:32**) and they were immediately at land (**John 6:21**) (they were in the middle of the sea! - **Mt 14:24**).
  6. Like the disciples, when we receive Jesus “into the boat” of our lives, we will be at peace and be able to endure our trials and we will be “brought to shore.”

### **III. Everyone Needs Jesus to be Their Savior in Life and for All Eternity.**

- A. The purpose of the miracle was to increase the disciples faith (**Mark 6:51-52; Mat. 14:33**).
  1. Witnessing Jesus’ perform this miracle caused the disciples to worship Him! (**Mat. 14:33**).
  2. The disciples were “*greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure*” (**Mark 6:51-52**).
  3. Had they understood the greatness of Jesus’ power before, they would have been better prepared for this! (e.g., his feeding the 5,000, healing people, etc.).
  3. Their amazement of the miracle of Jesus led to the strengthening of their faith.
- B. Jesus is the one and only Savior who can save a world “drowning” in sin.
  1. When Peter cried out, “*Lord, save me!*” he did not realize just how much he needed saving!
  2. The fact is, all are sinners who are “drowning” in sin and need to be rescued by Jesus (**Rom. 3:23-24**).
  3. All the people of the world need Jesus as their Savior for eternal life (**John 8:24; 3:16-17**).
  4. Jesus is the source of eternal salvation for all who believe in the gospel (**Rom. 1:16**) and obey His word (**Heb. 5:9**).

**Conclusion: Look to Jesus and “Take His Hand.” Jesus is Truly Our “Lifeline” for Courage, Strength, and Eternal Salvation!**