**WALK ON WATER!”, BIG GOD SERIES #8, La Sierra Spanish Church, 4/4/20**

**TEXT: MATTHEW 14:25ff**

**KEY WORDS: PETER / JESUS / FAITH / GOD / FEAR / CAVE / HUMAN**

**INTRO.** **A. HELICOPTER:** This couple I know in the Philippines, flies a helicopter to bring sick people out of the mountains. One time they had a guy, unconscious, strapped him onto the skid underneath, got 5000 feet up, guy wakes up, looks over the side, WO—somehow climbed out, opened the door, tried to take over! FEAR!

 **B. Story–is about PETER walking on water. MATTHEW 14:25-26: “About three o’clock in the morning Jesus came to them, walking on the water. When the disciples saw him, they screamed in terror, thinking he was a ghost.” MATTHEW 14:27-29 “But Jesus said. ‘It’s all right, I am here! Don’t be afraid.’ Then Peter said, ‘Lord, if it’s really you, tell me to come to you by walking on water.’ ‘All right, come.’” MATTHEW 14:29 “So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus.”**

**I. The BASICS: A. If you want to walk on water, you’ve got to get out fo the boat. You cannot be in the boat and walking on water at the same time! #1–THE CALL: “COME.”** Jesus is always calling **ORDInARY** people to come do **EXTRAORDINARY** things. **For my PARENTS,** it was taking 3 little kids on a boat to Thailand when they were 28 years old. **For me—I** was just a regular, ordinary pastor—call came to go preach in Thailand, then Philippines, then India. Never done it before. Had to write a new sermon every day. Then started raising money.**. DIVISION president, India, called me, buy a satellite dish, Net ’98. $4500. President university of the Philippines. Another one. $9,000. Scared to death. But in one weekend it all came in. Then the calls came, preach to 2000 here, Youth Congress, 7,000 here. Had to make APPEALS--scared to death, nobody would come forward. They asked us to build church in Thailand, $150,000. Every time, scared to death. God, find somebody else. \*\*\*MELINDA GATES—watch her interview with David Letterman on NETFLIX. She’s just a young woman,** working for Microsoft, marries the richest man in the world. Call came, don’t just sit there in your boat, world’s richest people—do something. Started a foundation. Ordinary people, getting called to do extraordinary things. Has a new book out. Fighting for women all over the world. Education. Wiping out diseases \*\*\***3 LADIES**, San Francisco. Came to the pastor, we heard your sermon, Thy Kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven. We want to save all the babies with HIV in Africa. 12 million. Why don’t you start with something local first? Rich kids’ school was on this side of the freeway, poor kids on the otherwise, black, Hispanic kids, no trees, no grace, no playground equipment. OK. Got 100 people, $20,000 for playground equipment, planted 100 trees, grass everywhere. Ordinary people, doing extraordinary things. The call—COME! **BRUCE WILKINSON—**wrote book called **DREAM GIVER.** Was eating dinner with somebody, said, everybody has a **CALLING**. Man disagreed. Called waitress over—what do you wish you were doing? Be a **NURSE.** Why aren’t you doing ? Can’t afford it, 2 kids. Who could watch your kids? My mom. See? Waitress went to the next table—“**I’m going to be a NURSE!” The CALL.**

**\*\*WHAT IS JESUS CALLING YOU TO COME DO?**

 **B. #2–WHAT’S THE BOAT: The BOAT stands for whatever you’re holding on to. Whatever makes you feel safe.** Comfortable. What’s your boat? Whatever makes you not want to get out of the Boat and try something new, go be with Jesus. What do you grab onto when that makes you feel safe? I didn’t want to raise money—stand in front of 1000 people, I didn’t want to make appeals. Let me stay in my own safe little boat. When I was a young pastor, we were **CASTING DEMONS** **OUT**, and the guy shouted at the demons to come out, I grabbed the **COUCH**. My boat. How’s that going to help? When the demons called me at my house, I turned on the lights, at least see the demons before they grabbed me! Your Boat could be **MONEY**, always feel better if have enough money. **FAMILY, CONNECTIONS**. What’s your boat?

**II. AND THEN THERE IS ALWAYS FEAR: A. God is always asking people to do something that’s a little scary. That moment, step over the side of the boat—Start walking on water. We all want to be on SOLID GROUND.** Went flying with my roommate in HS, learning to fly. 16 years old, learning to land. Come in 50 feet high, too high, teacher would yell, get down, we would drop like a rock, bounce in the air. Let me out!

**B.** I made a list of the **TOP TEN Moments of Fear I’ve had:** 10. **ACCELERATOR** at Knotts Berry Farm. 9. The night a **DEMON** called me at 2:30 in the morning. 8. The guy dying of cancer driving me in the **PORSCHE** do off-ramps at 100mph, he’s going to die anyway, he doesn’t care! 7. Day we went **SCUBA diving on a wall, 1000 feet down. Usually if you mess up, just go down 30/40 feet. Here—never stop.** 6. **SNAKE** show, Thailand, throw a snake at me, landed at my feet, just a rope with a knot. 5. Climbing **HALF DOME** holding on those cables, 1000 drop off. 4. **BEESTING**, knew could die any minute. 3. Thought I had **CANCER** at 31. 2. Standing outside door of Hilda’s apartment, **ENGAGEMENT** watch in my pocket, going to ask her to marry me, 1. First time I had to go out in front of my church without a **HAIRPIECE!**

**C. All Through the Bible, MOMENTS OF FEAR BEFORE DOING SOMETHING BIG FOR GOD: NOAH—**have to go in the boat, shut the door, sit there, in a boat, in the middle of a desert, never seen rain. **MOSES—**“Pick up that snake by the tail.” Stand in front of 2 million, thirsty, start hitting a rock expecting water to come out.  **ELIJAH—**kneel down expecting fire to come down. God, let’s go up the day before, and practice. I pray, then You send fire. Don’t leave me hanging out there in front of everybody. **PRIESTS,** carrying the ARK, you step in, then the water will open. No, God, you first. No, you first. **JEHOSHAPHAT—**surrounded by armies, terrified, goes to the Temple, begging God, do something. God tells them to march, and just sing. That’s a good idea, God. You come down here and sing. Even **JESUS, begging GOD to let Him off, scared to die.**

**D. So without FAITH,** without letting go of the boat, there would have been no Noah, no humans left in the world. No Exodus, No fire from heaven on top of Mt. Carmel. There would be no churches, no schools, no great Christian songs, no marriages, no cures discovered—if nobody took a chance and got out of the boat.

**III. I WAS ALWAYS AFRAID OF WHAT I WOULD HAVE TO GIVE UP.** A. Didn’t want to give up what I had in the boat. When I was 18, somebody asked, “**If you were to die tonight, do you know you would be saved?”** Didn’t know. Wanted that, but afraid, If gave my whole life over to God, have to give up some things, some stuff I had in the **BOAT!** Had been one of the best students. Couldn’t be the best at anything else, could be best at that. Thought I would have to give that up. Sports. Pretty blond girlfriend. Sure God would make me marry somebody awful, keep me humble. Finally let go of the boat. God didn’t take any of that away. But somehow that act broke the power of that. God has had to do that many times since that. Make me get out of the boat, let stuff go, let go the hold it has on you, wanting to stay safe.

**IV. HOW DO YOU LEARN TO WALK ON WATER?** A. **Remembering what God has done before.** Just go back through Matthew, Peter had already heard the **voice of God** at the baptism, seen Jesus **heal a lepe**r, a blind man, feed the **5000**, change the **water into wine**, **cast out demons**, and **calm the storm**. How could he forget? B. **IF God has done it for someone else, He can do it for you.** **Peter is not some BILLY GRAHAM**, spiritual superstar. If God can get Peter to walk on water, anybody can do it

 C. The Question is, **DO YOU TRUST HIM?** The lady who has given me lot of money for missions died last year. Scared me—now what will I do? Some people said, “God’s not going to stop, Pastor Dan!” “Yeah, you’re right.” 1993, Chicago Bulls, last game, struggling, **MICHAEL JORDAN** trying to do it all himself, not trusting any of his teammates. Finally, 4th quarter, in the huddle, Phil Jackson asked Jordan, “Who’s open?” **“PAXSON.”** Pass it to him, **TRUST HIM**! Scored 20 points, they won the 3rd championship.

SERIES—**BIG GOD. You can Trust God. Don’t know if we can trust the president or government. God.**

 D. **KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS.** Whenever I’m afraid, it’s **ALWAY**S because I look away. I look at how much money we have. Or I look at the extra work I’m going to have to do myself to get that done. Too tired. I start listening to all the **negative people**, who say, “We don’t have the money, We’ve never done it that way before, it’s going to rain, whatever. I had to learn, if listen to them, never do anything, ride around in that same little boat forever. I had somebody **in a conference office**, years ago, far away, Beat my soul down, drowning like Peter. Finally had to decide, not let him get inside my head any more, look at Jesus, got my soul back. I have learned—everything I do comes out of getting out of the boat, **LIVING ON THE EDGE,** being **ANOINTED,** filling my soul, until hear the Voice of God again and good things start to happen—none of that happens in the boat. All out on the water with Jesus.

**V. DO YOU HAVE TO WALK ON WATER TO BE SAVED? GET OVER FEAR? A. #1–Did Peter eventually Walk on Water?**  Did Jesus have to carry Him back to the boat? No, DA says, they **walked hand-in-hand** back to the boat. I am going to hang it out there and say—\*\***Everybody who is going to be saved, is going to walk on water and have to get out of the boat.\*\***  Non-Christians **can ride in the boat.** That’s nothing. Christians make money, non-Christians make money. Christians make love, non-Christians make love. Christians win in sports, non-Christians win in sports**. BUT If you want Jesus to make a difference—you have to get out of the boat. Walk on water. By faith**. Let go control. The reason Christians wonder why they don’t seem to be doing any better than non-Christians–never get out of the boat. The good stuff only happens out of the boat!

**B. #2–REVELATION 15:2: “I saw before me what seemed to be a Sea of Glass mixed with fire. And on it stood all the people who had been victorious over the beast.”** A group standing on the Sea of Glass. It looks like glass, but this is water. They’re walking on water. You can say, Sure, we’re going to walk on water in heaven! No, this is **REV. 15, not REV. 20. Still 7 last plagues, still Battle of Armageddon.** These people are still down here, but so locked in to Jesus, sealed, **AS IF ALREADY WALKING ON WATER ON THE SEA OF GLASS. Bible says we will all “follow the LAMB wherever He goes.” Eyes on Jesus. So I’m going to say, if you want to go to heaven—have to get out of the boat. Live totally by faith. No more fear. Out with Jesus!**

 **C. #3–How will we go to heaven? REVELATION 14:13: “Then I saw a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was the Son of Man.”** What is a cloud? Water and air. The only way anybody will go to heaven, is if they can walk on water—not because they’re spiritual superstars, but because their eyes are fixed on Jesus.

D.  **#4–THE CROSS**. How are we saved? **1 CORINTHIANS 2:2:**  There is no mix, Jesus and you, faith and works. You’re either in the boat, or out on the water.**!**  **EPHESIANS 2:8 “For by grace are you saved, through faith.”** **HEBREWS** **11:6 “It is impossible to please God without faith.” ROMANS 14:23: “Whatever is not of faith, is sin.” Rick Rice** says, If you need heart surgery, **$200,000** for everything, rich man comes along, says he’ll pay it all. You say, Thanks, but I want to put in something. $20. Dishonors the gift. You can’t contribute anything to what Jesus has done. Worthless. It’s the same with Life. You can’t be SAVED by FAITH, but live your life sitting in the Boat! **IT’S ALL BY FAITH, ALL JESUS. EGW--FAITH has no room for Fear.**

**VI. IS THE EXHILARATION WORTH THE RISK OF FAILURE?** A. We’re all scared to let go of the boat. Scared we’ll mess up. Drown in front of everybody. Every project I do, scared. Every sermon in front of a crowd. Every time at potluck, go up to a table of strangers—still feel fear. But the Bible says, hundreds of times—**BE NOT AFRAID. I will never leave you. I will give you the words to speak. Don’t worry!**

**B. \*\*That fear becomes part of the excitement of life! I have found, those times when I have gotten out of the boat,** live out on the edge, when they come and get me and say, We need you to speak in 5 minutes. When they tell me, we’re baptizing 600 people tomorrow and they have no churches. We need 9 churches. It’s those moments, when you let go of the boat, and start to walk on water, that will **define your life. They are the ice cream of life. They are what you put in the photo albums in your brain. They are the stories you tell years later—“Remember when they had no churches?”**

**C. The times when you face the fear, and DO IT ANYWAY.** You try **waterskiing,** drop into the water, and you finally make it, gliding on top of the water. You’re walking on water! The day we finished building that church in Thailand, and I got to baptize 12 people, and they put **ORCHIDS in the water. Unbelievable. Walking on the water. That high, from getting out of the boat, walking on water-- ALWAYS WORTH IT!**

**VII. JESUS IS WHERE YOU LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO BE THE MOST HUMAN.** A. Last point—every world religion is trying to figure out the same thing—What does it mean to be HUMAN? The most human? Get to the core, the sweet spot? **CONFUCIUS—**follow the rules, stick to who you’re supposed to be, the servant, whatever—the most human. **THE WAY—**No, that’s not being human. It’s breaking free, go out into nature, go ROAMING around. Every religion says their way is the way. B. WE say—**Our God is the one who made HUMANS—AND then the One who made us came down Himself to show us what being human looks like. You will never be your best human sitting in the boat—OUT WALKING ON THE WATER! Doing extraordinary stuff. You want to be the most human, the most alive, the most electric—let go of the boat, and go walk on water with Jesus.** **And that is what Heaven will feel like, every second of every day—alive, magical, walking on water with Jesus, on the Sea of Glass.**

**APPEAL: A.** When I was younger, I used to go play basketball with the kids at the school. Back in Chicago—turned 40, had one last game. All of a sudden got into the **ZONE**, just couldn’t miss. Scored like 20 points in 10 minutes. All the kids told their parents, “**You should have seen Pastor Dan today!”** All great athletes know what that’s like. **IN THE ZONE. OTHERS CALL IT—THE FLOW. You’re caught the wave, you found your sweet spot. You can’t miss.**  Once you get a taste of it, want it all the time. Someday—how we’re going to live—every minute—out of the boat. Walking on Water. With Jesus.