

MOOREBANK – HAMMONDVILLE ANGLICAN CHURCHES

SERMON OUTLINE –25 March 2017

Matthew 14:13 – 15:20 ~ Power and Purity

The leap of faith

1. Jesus feeds the multitude – 14:12 - 22

- An unusual combination – power and compassion
- The abundant provision of Jesus

2. Jesus walks on water – 14:23 - 36

- V25 – An extraordinary revelation
- V33 – the disciples come to understand what we know and believe

But do we really believe Jesus is the Son of God?

- A picture of the Christian life – what it means to know and trust Jesus
- When Christ demands the impossible
- ‘I will, the Lord being my helper’

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QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR REFLECTION

Matthew 14:13 – 15:20

1. Think back over what we have recently read in Matthew. In what ways has Jesus demonstrated his authority?

Jesus feeds the multitude – Matthew 14:13-22

2. Is kindness and care something we normally associate with powerful people? What is Jesus attitude towards the people in v14? In what ways does he demonstrate this?
3. How many were fed? What is the significance of there being food left over? (v20).
4. Why do you think this is the only miracle recorded in all four gospels? What is the anticipated response of the crowds in John 6:13-15? How does Jesus respond in John's gospel and here in v22-23? Why do you think he acts this way?

Jesus walks on water and heals the sick – Matthew 14:23 – 36 (Spend time here!)

5. In the Old Testament, Yahweh ruled over the waters (Psalm 65:7; 107:23-32) even walking on the waves (Job 9:8; Ps 77:19; Isaiah 51:9-10). What is Jesus implicitly demonstrating? Do the disciples get it (v33)? [compare Ex 3:11-14 with Mat 14:27 – 'It is I' is literally written 'I am'].
6. How is it possible in v28-29 that Peter walked on the water towards Jesus? What does this suggest about Christ's power when we choose to obey him? (Note that Peter is responding in obedience to Christ's command).
7. Can you think of areas in your life where you know what obedience to Christ looks like but you are avoiding out of fear, laziness, doubt, reluctance or some other reason? How does this passage strengthen us to follow Jesus? (Remember one of the common designations of the Lord in the OT is 'helper').
8. Do you think Jesus is with you and that his power is present to strengthen you when you step out in faith in obedience to him? Why / Why not?
9. John Ortberg wrote 'If you want to walk on water, you have to get out of the boat'. Do you agree? Where might Jesus be calling you to get out of the boat and trust him?

Jesus powerful and pure - Matthew 15:1-20 (Do this section at home or only if time)

10. What is the essence of Jesus criticism of the religious leaders in v6-9? Is this a danger for us? How do you guard against becoming a v8 person?
11. If purity and true religion is not about external observances, where does it come from? V17-20. Jesus says here and in 12:34, true spirituality comes from the inside out and not the other way round. Where else do we see this in Matthew?