

Ships Ahoy!

Sailing the seas of trouble in three unsinkable ships

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Matthew 8:23-27

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By way of introduction:

Sailor who is/was a 'Non-swim', nicknamed 'what kind of wood doesn't float', with a persistent fear of drowning.

Our text takes us to a common and personal issue in my life "getting into the 'I can't(s)", getting into something that is over your head. Water is such a nemesis for me!! I did not come from the land down under but I came from the land that never overflowed. The closest I've ever come to being over my head in water was in the bathtub. When I got into a Jacuzzi I wanted to put on "floaties" or "inflatables".

For the not so scientifically challenged, I'd like to put it this way

Why do heavy boats float

An object will **float** if the gravitational (downward) force is less than the buoyancy (upward) force. So, in other words, an object will **float** if it weighs less than the amount of water it displaces. This explains why a rock will sink while a huge **boat** will **float**. The rock is **heavy**, but it displaces only a little water.

Matthew 8: 23-27 (Mark 4: 36-41; Luke 8: 22-25)

Use this passage:

23 Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. 24 And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. 25 Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" 26 But He said to them, "**Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?**" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. 27 So the men marveled, saying, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

Mark 4: 36-41

35 On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." 36 Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. 37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. 38 But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" 39 Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "**Peace, be still!**" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. 40 But He said to them, "**Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have**

no faith?" 41 And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

Luke 8: 22-25 "

22 Now it happened, on a certain day, that He got into a boat with His disciples. And He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side of the lake." And they launched out. 23 But as they sailed He fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water, and were in jeopardy. 24 And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm. 25 But He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another, "Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!"

Chapter 8 is about a demonstration, if you will of Christ's power as King! Jesus was coming down from the mountains.

Power over defilement (overcomes leprosy). 8: 1-4, Leper saying if you are willing...

Power over distance. 8: 5-13, Centurion requesting "just say the word and my servant will be healed".

Power over disease 8: 14-17, The healing of Peter's mother-in-law.

Power over disciples 8:18-22, The cost of discipleship is big. One must have the right priorities in life.

Power over nature 8:23-27, More on this in a moment.

Power over demons 8: 28-34, God has power over demonic forces!

J. Vernon McGee states: "The theme of Chapter 8 is that Jesus demonstrates that he has the dynamic power to enforce the ethic of the Sermon on the Mount" (which concludes in Chapter 7).

- Chapters 8 and 9 tell of twelve miracles performed by Jesus.

Today, let's take a look at the 5th miracle that Jesus performed and look at it in light of a way out of a storm using ships. I thought of the term "Ship Ahoy" because I heard it used when I was in the Navy! The term is used to ([Nautical Term](#)) *nautical* a hail used to call a ship or to attract attention.

Our text today is about God's disciples calling attention to a perceived insurmountable trouble needing Jesus' attention. Not unlike what I do when I am in water if I cannot touch the bottom.

Remember what I mentioned earlier:

"So, in other words, an object will float if it weighs less than the amount of water it displaces."

Three "ships" that can always keep your head above water and will always serve as a source of power to navigate in the midst of a storm!!

1. Ship #1: Relationship. Unsinkable relationships that have been established!!

"Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him." Vs. 23.

- A. A relationship established based upon an alliance with Jesus Christ.

Matthew 4: 19 – 20

19 Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” 20 They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

- God has called—we answer! “He said come follow me...”!

1 Corinthians 11:1

Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ.

- God did and we imitate! If He is okay getting on a boat then I am okay to get on a boat!

John 14: 15

“If you love Me, keep My commandments.

- God said and we obeyed.

B. A relationship established based upon a kindred spirit with Jesus Christ.
Kindred spirit because we related - as a follower of Christ I have been born of the Spirit.

1 Peter 1: 22-25

²² “Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, ²³ having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, ²⁴ because

*“All flesh is as grass,
And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass.
The grass withers,
And its flower falls away,*

²⁵ *But the word of the LORD endures forever.”*

Now this is the word, which by the gospel was preached to you.”

Wiersbe: The Spirit of God takes the Word of God and, when the sinner believes, imparts the life of God. Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). The Bible exposition commentary (Vol. 1, p. 295). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

- That places me in the place of God (as Joseph declared in Genesis 50:19)

Matthew 4:19

19 Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” 20 They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

- Because of kindred spirits I will follow His way.

John 8:32

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

- Because of kindred spirits, I will follow His truth!

2 Corinthians 5: 17

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

- Because of kindred spirits, I will follow His life as a new creation!

C. A relationship established based upon identity with Jesus Christ.

One writer, Paul Tripp, states (Dangerous Calling): “*no one is more influential in your life than you are, because no one talks to you more than you do.*” “*Smack dab in the middle of your internal conversation is what you tell yourself about your identity. There is only two places to look for your identity (vertically in Christ or horizontally in situations, experiences, and relationships of your daily life)*”!

John 18: 22-23

22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:
23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

- Identity founded in Jesus!
- In the midst of trouble stick close to Jesus.
- Song “Just a closer walk with Thee”, (pg. 12).

Psalm 46: 1-3

¹ God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. [**Abundantly available help!**]

² Therefore we will not fear,

Even though the earth be removed,

And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

³ Though its waters roar and be troubled,

Though the mountains shake with its swelling.

- Identity Grounded in Jesus.
- Even on the seas of trouble I am grounded in Jesus.
- Song: Stand alone on the word of God B-I-B-L-E.

Hebrews 12: 1-2

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- Focused on Jesus.
- Get my identity vertically!

Before leaving this ship let me remind me:

- Sometimes we drown because the problems of life get bigger than the relationship of (life), i.e. God, wife, or friend. Example, (the Christian Atheist) putting faith in God but living as if everything was up to me?
- Sometimes we get divorces because our happy problem is bigger than our Holy Relationship!

2.Ship # 2: Fellowship. Unsinkable Fellowship that has been ongoing!

24 “And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. 25 Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!” Vss. 24-25

A. Fellowship that testifies of ongoing companionship with Jesus Christ.

John 16:33

33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

- God knows, Hebrews 4:15: “for we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weakness, but was in all points tempted as we are yet without sin.
- Go to your prayer closet and tell Jesus. Remember you can't wake him up! There is no need to tip into the prayer closet!
- No do not disturb sign!

Hebrew 13: 5-6

5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” 6 So we may boldly say:

“The LORD is my helper;
I will not fear.
What can man do to me?”

Proverbs 18: 24

²⁴A man *who has* friends must himself be friendly,
But there is a friend *who sticks* closer than a brother.

- **That Friend is Jesus!**

And:

John 15: 12-15

12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

- **You will always have a friend!**

B. Fellowship that testifies of ongoing communion with Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1 13-15

13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

- **Communion of sanctification!**

1 Corinthians 1:9

⁹God *is* faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- **God will be faithful to His promises and His purposes.**
- **Charles Stanley's Life Principles Bible (Roman Numeral 39 – 43)**

John 6:68

68 But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
69 Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

- Communion of one accord - around His Word.

C. Fellowship testifies of an ongoing place to turn to with Jesus Christ.

Matthew 11:28

28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

- Turn to Jesus in times of trouble.
- Song: Jesus is calling!! Are you out of fellowship?
- My mom constantly reminding me....

Romans 10:13

13 For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

- Call upon Him for Salvation!
- Call upon Jesus in times of trouble!
- Call upon Him in times of desperation!

Psalms 18:3

³I will call upon the Lord, *who is worthy* to be praised;
So shall I be saved from my enemies.

And:

Psalms 9:10

¹⁰And those who know Your name will put their trust in You;
For You, Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You.

- Trust in Jesus!
- Song: I will trust in you. You are my hiding place

Joel 3: 10

¹⁰Beat your plowshares into swords
And your pruning hooks into spears;
Let the weak say, ‘I *am* strong.’ ”

Before leaving this ship let me remind me:

- **Sometimes we let three root sins (Pride, Unbelief, and Selfishness) interfere with our ability to maintain fellowship.**
- **Sometime we can become “emotionally constipated”, angry, really angry and more. Example: article 3 days ago “Bitter husband finally talks to wife after 20 years.”**
- **Sometimes God has not given us what we want so we allow ourselves to become complacent or apathetic toward the thing of God.**

3. Ship #3: Worship. Unsinkable worship has the place of pre-eminence! Vs. 26-27

- Webster’s Dictionary 1828: “*Chiefly and eminently, the act of paying divine honors to the Supreme Being.*”

26 But He said to them, “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?” Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. 27 So the men marveled, saying, “Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”

- What words of conviction!! Conviction motivates repentance!

A. Worship is faith-based paying divine honor because He is faithful!

Psalm 95: 6-7

⁶ Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

⁷ For He *is* our God,
And we *are* the people of His pasture,
And the sheep of His hand.

Today, if you will hear His voice:

⁸ “Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion,

- God is to be worshiped because of who He is!
- Humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord.

Matthew 9:18

¹⁸ While He spoke these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshiped Him, saying, “My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live.” ¹⁹ So Jesus arose and followed him, and so *did* His disciples.

- Worship before supplication, trusting Jesus to meet their needs.

Matthew 15: 25-28

25 Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, help me!”

26 But He answered and said, “It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the little dogs.”

27 And she said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table.”

28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

- Worship when in desperate need yet believing God to do as He willed!

Matthew 8:2 - 5

8 When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. 2 And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.”

3 Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, “I am willing; be cleansed.” Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

4 And Jesus said to him, “See that you tell no one; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”

- Worship God with the faith that He will do as He wills not as I want!
- McGee: “I know you can but will you? More in line with submission.

B. Worship is grace-based paying divine honor because of His amazing grace!

Romans 7: 24-25

24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

- I am so thankful that God's amazing grace comes to my rescue when nothing else can. For that reason alone I worship Him.

Mark 4: 35-41 (especially 39-40)

35 On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side."
36 Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. 37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. 38 But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

39 Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. 40 But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" 41 And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

- I worship Him because His grace covers me in my moment of fear!
- God will have compassion in my moment of fear and trembling.

C. Worship is miracle-based paying divine honor because He is a miracle God!

John 4: 18

46 So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum. 47 When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. 48 Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe."

49 The nobleman said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies!"

50 Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your son lives." **So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way.** 51 And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, "Your son lives!"

52 Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." 53 So the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives." And he himself believed, and his whole household.

- Even today we look for signs and wonders.
- This year will you be moved to believe?

John 20: 30 -31

30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

- Are we willing to believe by faith or are we like Thomas "I won't believe unless...John 20: 29 "Jesus said to him, Thomas you because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.
- Unbelief hinders worship!

John 9: 25

35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"

36 He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"

37 And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you."

38 Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

- **We come into His house and gather in His name because we honor and believe and have a heart to worship Him!**

Before Leaving this ship let me remind me:

- **Sometimes, Worship is the last thing I want or think about doing because I am gazing at my navel.**
- **Sometimes I am too full of me to worship Him who made me! John 3:33 (It's got to be about me decreasing and Him increasing).**
- **Sometimes I fail to Behold my God; instead I behold my idol (prosperity, survival), making this useless life all about M.E.!**

4. Application

Philippians 3: 10

10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death

Relationship: "That I might know him".

Worship: "The power of His resurrection,"

Fellowship: "The fellowship of His suffering"

This year may our relationship with Christ be genuinely based upon knowledge of the Holy Spirit.

This year may our fellowship be of sweet communion and unity with the Lamb who redeemed us and bought us by His blood. Who because of such awesome fellowship He will say to us: Well done good and faithful servant!

This year may our worship of the Lamb who was slain be unceasing as we proclaim daily that He alone is worthy to receive glory, and honor and power, for He created all things! (Revelation 4:11).

When we are reminded by the Holy Spirit "where are you?", may we check ourselves. Check our relationship with the one true God; check our fellowship with The Life, The Truth, and The Way; and check our Worship in spirit and truth!

5. Benediction:

Psalm 19:13-14

13 Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins;
Let them not have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless,
And I shall be innocent of great transgression.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
Be acceptable in Your sight,
O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

I Saw Three Ships!

The origins of I saw three ships are unknown but it is believed to be an English carol from the Victorian era. The theme for I Saw Three Ships is extremely optimistic and the repetition rate of the chorus lines ensure that the carol will be well remembered.

Author of the lyrics and composer of the music for I Saw Three Ships is unknown.

I saw three ships come sailing in On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day; I saw three ships come sailing in On Christmas Day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three, On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day? And what was in those ships all three, On Christmas Day in the morning?

The Virgin Mary and Christ were there, On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day; The Virgin Mary and Christ were there, On Christmas Day in the morning.

Pray, wither sailed those ships all three, On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day; Pray, wither sailed those ships all three, On Christmas Day in the morning?

O they sailed into Bethlehem, On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day; O they sailed into Bethlehem, On Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the bells on earth shall ring, On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day; And all the bells on earth shall ring, On Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing, On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day; And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing, On Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the souls on earth shall sing, On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day; And all the souls on earth shall sing, On Christmas Day in the morning.

Then let us all rejoice again, On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day; Then let us all rejoice again, On Christmas Day in the morning.

Just a closer walk with thee

Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

I am weak, but Thou art strong,
Jesus, keep me from all wrong,
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

Through this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.

When my feeble life is o'er,
Time for me will be no more,
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To Thy kingdom's shore, to Thy shore.

The B-I-B-L-E yeah that's the book for me (repeat 4 times)

I have a book it teaches me everything that I know
And in this book it shows me how I need to grow
In my life, I read it every single day
It is the truth, it is my life, and it's my way
It is how God speaks to me

The B-I-B-L-E, yeah that's the book for me
I stand alone on the word of God
The B-I-B-L-E

Softly and Tenderly

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
Calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals, He's waiting and watching;
Watching for you and for me.

[Chorus]

Come home, come home,
Ye who are weary come home;
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling;
Calling, "O sinner, come home!"

O for the wonderful love He has promised,
Promised for you and for me.
Though we have sinned He has mercy and pardon;
Pardon for you and for me.

Read more: [Alan Jackson - Softly And Tenderly Lyrics | MetroLyrics](#)

You Are My Hiding Place

Selah

You are my hiding place
You always fill my heart
With songs of deliverance
Whenever I am afraid
I will trust in You
I will trust in You
Let the weak say I am strong
In the strength of the Lord
You are my hiding place
You always fill my heart
With songs of deliverance
Whenever I am afraid
I will trust in You
I will trust in You
Let the weak say I am strong
In the strength of the Lord
I will trust in You
You are my hiding place
You always fill my heart
With songs of deliverance
Whenever I am afraid
I will trust in You
I will trust in You
Let the weak say I am strong
In the strength of the Lord
I will trust in You
You are my hiding place
(I will trust in You)
You always fill my heart
(Let the weak say I am strong)
With songs of deliverance
(In the strength of the Lord)
Whenever I am afraid
I will trust in You
Songwriters: MICHAEL JAMES LEDNER
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