

## Sunday School lesson for the Month of March 2022

# Why Did You Doubt?

(Matthew 14:22-33)

### Sunday, March 6, 2022

Have doubts been a problem in your life? Perhaps you try but are unable to shake the painful effects of doubt. Sometimes you feel that you are not much of a Christian because of your doubts. You are not alone. Most of us know too well the disorganizing power of doubt. You do not doubt the great doctrines and teaching of the bible, but doubts come when you begin to try to apply these great doctrines and teachings to your life.

Even the disciples of Jesus were victims of doubt. They knew how upsetting doubts could be to a person. We all know about “doubting” Thomas. But Jesus never rejected the disciples because of their doubts; instead, He sought to bring help to their troubled lives. His probing question, “why did you doubt?” was first addressed to His disciples, but it can bring you face to face with the “why” of your doubts.

### Sunday, March 13, 2022

#### **I. Doubts come when circumstances are allowed to control you!**

It had been a long day in the life of our Lord. He had fed more than five thousand people and had spent half of the night in prayer; but now he found that His disciples were in the midst of trying circumstances. In going to their aid, He walked on the waters of the Sea of Galilee – when Peter saw Jesus coming to their boat, he asked for the privilege of walking out on the water to meet Him. After a good start, Peter allowed the circumstances of the wind and waves to take control, and he began to doubt.

#### **A. Circumstances can control you by temporarily overshadowing Christ.**

Christ did not leave Peter alone, but Peter allowed the wind and waves to temporarily become more important than Christ; doubts came when Christ was overshadowed.

- When Christ is overshadowed, His commands are overshadowed!  
(Matthew 14:19-20)
  - When Christ is overshadowed, His care is overshadowed!  
(Matthew 14:31)
- B. Circumstances can control you by challenging your personal well-being.  
It is a terrifying experience to suddenly realize that your personal well-being is being challenged by forces that you cannot control. When this happened to Peter, he began to doubt.

Circumstances can control you by causing your future to seem uncertain. Peter and the other disciples gave up everything to become followers of Jesus. When trying circumstances came and their future seemed uncertain, they doubted.

## Sunday, March 20, 2022

### II. Doubts come when fear is allowed to replace Faith!

In the New Testament, a Christian's faith is described as an active trust and confidence in God and His will for their life. This type of faith brings joy and peace to the Christian, but too often, as in Peter's case, fear is allowed to replace faith.

- A. When fear replaces faith, your courage is weakened. Without strong courage, there is usually little or no advancement in spiritual growth, evangelistic outreach, or mission involvement. Peter made no forward progress after fear replaced his faith.
- B. When fear replaces faith, your obedience is hindered. It is wonderful to live obedience to all that Christ commands, but if fear replaces faith, obedience is hindered.
- C. When fear replaces faith, your effectiveness is limited. It is impossible to be truly effective in the work of the Lord if fear replaces faith. Peter knew only a limited amount of effectiveness in walking on the water because he allowed fear to replace his faith.
- D. When fear replaces faith, your confidence is destroyed. The Bible says, "commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to

pass” (Psalm 37:5). This is a wonderful verse, but if your faith is allowed to be replaced by fear, then like Peter, your confidence will be destroyed. There is not much you can do or will do without confidence in Christ or yourself.

### **Sunday, March 27, 2022**

#### **III. Doubts can be defeated!**

When we understand why we have doubts, then we are able to defeat them.

God is ready to help us with our problems. A seven-year-old girl’ faith encourages all who are troubled by doubt. After the tragic death of her parents, she prayed: “Dear God, we’re sorry Daddy and Mommy had to die, but we know that you needed them up in heaven. And while they’re gone, you are here to watch over us.”

Will you let Him watch over you?