

Thinking Outside The Boat

INTRO:

It has been said that “We do not see things as they are, we see things as we are.”

We must reject the “status quo” of ideas and engage new ways of looking at things. Our thinking should bring new pieces into the puzzle, rather than just working with what we see.

There’s a great story I read in an article:

There was a great race between a team of the wise and a team of the foolish. The wise people won by a mile. So the foolish people hired an expert to figure out what went wrong.

The expert reported that the wise people had one person steering and eight people rowing, while they had eight people steering and only one person rowing.

“**Aha,**” said the foolish people who immediately restructured their team: Now they had one senior manager, seven management consultants, and one rower. In the rematch, the wise people won by two miles!

After further intensive consultations, the foolish people fired their rower!

CONSIDER THIS.... In this story reality was staring the team of the foolish in the face, but they just couldn’t see it.

The fully lived life is all about seeing and seeing differently. Therefore as Christians we must begin “THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOAT” knowing that He is God.

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We’ve all heard the story of Peter and his encounter with God out on the water. In the book of Matthew chapter 14 we learn that Jesus made the disciples get into the boat after feeding the five thousand and go before Him to the other side.

Beginning in verse 24 it reads:

Matthew 14:24-31(NKJV)

24 But the boat was now in the middle of the sea,[a] tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

25 Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. **26** And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear.

27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.”

28 And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.”

29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous,[b] he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" 31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

This incident is not the first time Jesus confronted Peter. In this moment Jesus is confronting him in his own world, on his own terms. Understand that crashing waters and boisterous wind was nothing new to Peter out on the waters because Peter was a fisherman. Although this is the first time Peter had seen water in this new way.

Before I give key points, let's take a moment and explain what the boat represents. In this context the boat represents:

- Comfort
- Safe Place
- Familiarity
- A place where growth is hindered

Quote: *Rick Warren says, "The shoe must never tell the foot how big it can grow."*

#1 VISION BEYOND THE BOAT

NOTE: HAVING SOMETHING CONTINUALLY BIRTH IN YOUR SPIRIT

Whenever our vision goes beyond our boat we begin **to see beyond the norm and think new about something old. We begin seeing possibilities, while daring something different.** You see this in the previous passage when Peter cast his vision beyond the boat when he says in verse 28 - "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

Please notice two things: (1) Peter does not presume that he can take matters into his own hands, but he asked for a command to be given to meet God out on the water, (2) He waited until the command was given.

Some of us have heard the voice of God and saw Him out on the waters of our life, but we've found comfort in the boat. While we believe there's no failure in the boat, there are no new waters to tread because no step is taken. I have to defend Peter here because he's constantly criticized about taking his eyes off God, which is very true, but at least he got out of the boat and failed forward! Peter casted his vision beyond the boat and took a step **HIGH FIVE YOURSELF AND SAY TAKE THE STEP** **Peter's water experience shows us what we are able to do if we take a leap of faith toward Jesus, trusting in the Lord and leaning not unto our own understanding. We then, can do things we previously thought impossible.**

The miracle of Jesus walking on water was directly relevant to Peter's life. Remember, Peter was a fisherman and a good catch was his livelihood. After performing the miracle of walking on water, Jesus invites Peter to leave the life he's always known and try something entirely new.

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“The real voyage of discovery consists, not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes.” – Marcel Proust

NOW EVEN THOUGH JESUS INVITES PETER TO TRY SOMETHING ENTIRELY NEW; IT WAS IN THE SAME BLUE PRINT OF WHAT PETER WAS ALREADY DOING IN HIS LIFE.

It is difficult to think outside the boat and walk on water, when your vision doesn't allow you to see beyond the boat.

#2 FEAR NOT

Isaiah 41:10(NIV)

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Anxiety and worry, which are forms of fear can create disruption in our lives. Fear has the ability to paralyze your life and hinder you from moving into your destiny, which God has called you to.

Remember God met Peter in his own world, on his own terms. Peter had spent his life out on the waters catching fish.

Luke 5:10(NKJV)

(a) Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men. So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.”

Isn't it amazing how God takes our life from practical to eternal? God is intentional about moving us into His eternal purpose for our own life.

Ephesians 1:11-12(NKJV)

11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

HOW MUCH GREATER DID IT MAKE PETER AS A FISHER OF MEN BY HAVING THE PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE OF FISHING??

Out on the waters of your own life, you've had courage to step out of the boat, but due to the boisterous wind and waters you became fearful focusing on the troubles of life.

2 Corinthians 4: 16-18(NIV)

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. **17** For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. **18** So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

NOTE: Inside the boat it is about your will and what you see, but outside the boat it's about His will and the unseen. **Thus you must FEAR NOT!**

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Philippians 4:9

9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

To think outside the boat requires you to put down your life as you know it and intentionally above all else focus on your real life, which is in Christ Jesus.

#3 Treasures in Jars of Clay

We ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing a great treasure.

2 Corinthians 4:7-10 (NIV)

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. 8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

10 We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

OUR MIND AND PHYSICAL BODY MAY BE FRAGILE, BUT IT'S WHAT'S INSIDE THAT HOLDS US TOGETHER...

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CLOSING

Matthew 14:31 (NKJV)

31 And immediately Jesus stretched out *His* hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

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So if it is you, whom God has called to have an outer boat experience; answer Him and say, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."