



## “CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: DOING WHO I AM WITH UNDERSTANDING”

Of Issachar, those who had understanding of the times, to  
know what Israel ought to do... 1 Chronicles 12:32

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TEXT: MATTHEW 14:22-33

TITLE: DEALING WITH DISTRACTIONS: FOCUS ON JESUS

### INTRODUCTION

- A. Distractions – Divert your attention away from the more important thing \_\_\_\_\_
- B. The devil uses distractions – To divert our attention away from God [the more important thing] to something else [less important] \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Distractions are designed to destroy our faith \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Storms are distractions \_\_\_\_\_

### BE LIKE JESUS

- A. Jesus never commented on the wind and waves \_\_\_\_\_
  - 1. Matthew – No comment
  - 2. John – No comment
  - 3. Mark – “He saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them. He came to them, walking on the sea, and would have passed them by”
  - 4. Sometimes, we wonder why Jesus seems to be passing us by while we are struggling with our problems – to Jesus, there is no problem...
  - 5. Jesus never commented on the wind and waves, he conquered them...
- B. Peter wanted to be like Jesus
  - 1. Peter was being called to greater works / things
  - 2. Only God can walk on water – **Job 9:8**, *He alone spreads out the heavens, And treads on the waves of the sea*
  - 3. Jesus, “... and greater works than these will he do...” – **John 14:12**
  - 4. “I am called to do greater works/things”
  - 5. To do greater things, I need to exercise greater faith – water walking faith
  - 6. The greater things I do for Jesus, and the greater faith I exercise in Jesus, I will experience the same distractions differently (Disciples in the ship vs. Peter on the water)

### FOCUS ON JESUS

- A. **I Must Focus on Jesus and Exercise Faith In What Jesus Said** \_\_\_\_\_
  - 1. Jesus told the Disciples, “Go on ahead to the other side”
  - 2. Am I focusing on Jesus and exercising faith in what Jesus said?
    - a. Am I clear about what Jesus said?
    - b. Am I doing it
- B. **I Must Focus on Jesus and Exercise Faith In What Jesus Sees** \_\_\_\_\_
  - 1. Jesus saw the destination beyond the distraction
  - 2. Do I see the destination beyond the distraction?
    - a. Do I know what/where the destination is?
    - b. Am I focused on it?