

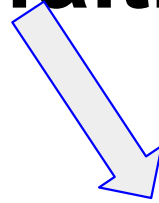
Our faith in Jesus feel strong until _____

1. Faith that feels strong — until prayers go unanswered.
2. Faith that feels strong — until unmet desire seems unbearable
3. Faith that feels strong — until rejection hits.
4. Faith that feels strong — until plans fall apart.
5. Faith that feels strong — until we succumb to temptations

2 kinds of faith



**Faith that feels
strong — but
fades in the
storm and
wind.**



**Faith that
grows stronger
— above the
storm and
wind.**

Matthew 14

Main idea:

Teaching the disciples to fix their eyes on Jesus,
with a faith that grows stronger and rises above the storm and wind.

Outline

- Retreating to a solitary place (14:1-13)
- Recognising Jesus' identity (14:14-21)
- Realigning our focus on Jesus when we start to sink (14:22-31)
- Responding to Jesus with worship and understanding (14:32-36)

Matthew 13 (What is to happen)

Jesus began teaching in parables to reveal truth to disciples with open hearts and to conceal it from the spiritually hardened.

- **The Parable of the Sower**

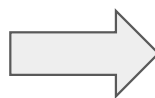
Jesus describes four types of soil (hearts) and how they receive the Word of God—some reject it, some receive it but fall away, and some bear fruit.

- **The Parable of the Weeds**

Good and wickedness coexist in the world until the final judgment, when God will separate the righteous from the wicked.

- **The Parables of the Mustard Seed and Yeast:**

Show how the kingdom of heaven starts small but grows powerfully and permeates everything.



Matthew 14 (How does that look like)

Shows how the truths Jesus taught in parables take shape in His ministry. While Herod embodies the hardened soil and wicked weeds — Jesus continues to focus on God's kingdom

- Herod **rejected** John's truth, choosing pride and pleasure over repentance.

- Herod **wickedly** execute John the baptist to maintain his reputation before his guests. He also failed to recognise Jesus' identity

- Jesus continues growing His kingdom by **revealing** His identity to disciples (feeding the 5000 with compassion and power over nature like walking on water) and the call to disciples to step out in faith.

1 main idea

Teaching the disciples to fix their eyes on Jesus

With faith that grows stronger & rise above the storm and wind

(1) By recognising Jesus' identity

- And after retreating by boat and landing, He saw a crowd who followed him.
- Jesus is committed to ministry despite personal grief over John's death and Herod's threat
- Compassion for the large crowd & heals the sick
- Power to multiply 5 loaves & 2 fishes to meet the needs of 5000
- Jesus is the true Shepherd and Provider

>> twelve basketfuls of broken pieces represent **12 tribes of Israel**

>> suggesting Jesus is the bread of life & symbolizes **restoration to kingdom of God**

>> & parallels how **God provided manna** in the wilderness for the Israelites during the Exodus

1 main idea

Teaching the disciples to fix their eyes on Jesus

With faith that grows stronger & rise above the storm and wind

(2) Realign our focus on Jesus when we start to sink (14:22-31)

What happened here?

- Jesus made the disciples get into the boat. He is intentional (v22)
- The disciples' boat had gone far out from the shore.
- Jesus went out to the disciples, walking on the lake (v25)
- The disciples were terrified at first, until Jesus identified himself "It is I"
- Peter ask to join his Master on the waves and he did!
- Until he saw the strength of the wind.

(2) Realigning our focus on Jesus when we start to sink (14:22-31)

Doubt comes when we **shift** our focus. However even in failure, Peter turned to Jesus.

His first instinct when sinking wasn't to swim — but to cry out, ***“Lord, save me!”***

Jesus corrects, not condemns. Jesus wants us to reflect on our **fears** and **doubts**

- Jesus reached out his hand and caught Peter. (v22)
- ““You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?” (v31)

Jesus is not rejecting Peter — He's gently pointing out where **growth** is needed.

1 main idea

Teaching the disciples to fix their eyes on Jesus

With faith that grows stronger & rise above the storm and wind

(3) Responding to Jesus with worship and understanding (14:32-36)

- The moment Jesus gets into the boat, the storm stops (v32)
- Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God (v33)

The disciples went from fear and struggle to **a moment of worship and deeper revelation** of Jesus' identity. He is Lord

Our experiences of Jesus' power and presence should lead us to **worship and declare who He truly is.**