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Jesus Rules the Waves Matthew 14:22-36

There was a time when the mightiest power on earth was the British Navy. It projected the power and might of the British crown to the seven seas and all the continents.

In 1740, British poet James Thomson wrote a poem that became a sort of unofficial national anthem for Great Britain, especially during the height of their worldwide rule, when the sun never set on the British empire:

Rule Britannia

When Britain first, at heaven's command, Arose from out the azure main; This was the charter of the land, And guardian Angels sung this strain:

Rule, Britannia, rule the waves; Britons never will be slaves.

British naval might was at one time the dread and envy of the entire world. Arthur Herman's book *To Rule the Waves: How the British Navy Shaped the Modern World* speaks of the incredible influence projected by British naval power. There was a time that Britannia really did rule the waves.

But history has shown that human empires wax and wane like the moon, and others come along to take their place. The rise and fall of the world empires is the rhythm of history, prophesied in the book of Daniel.

Daniel 2:44 "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.

Daniel had a vision later, in Daniel 7, of four beasts coming out of the sea; four great beasts emerging from the troubled waters of the ocean. The troubled waters of the ocean represent the great mass of humanity, with all their strife and struggle. The beasts emerging represent great human empires in succession... one after the other.

But only Jesus will reign over the turbulent sea of human history. Only Jesus has the power to rule all nations and all peoples.

The actual fact is that only one empire truly rules, only one Kingdom truly spans the globe, only one King truly rules the waves: and that is King Jesus. Another English poet, Isaac Watts wrote the poem that captures this essence:

The passage before us today is a clear picture of the supernatural power of King Jesus. Jesus literally walking on the waves, literally commanding the winds and waves to cease striving and know that He is God.

The passage before us today gives us also a clear picture of ourselves: frail, beaten, weak, defenseless, helpless and unable to save ourselves... BUT YET with supernatural power given only by Christ, like Peter we can emerge from our boat and walk on the water to Christ.

I. Christ's Essential Communion with the Father

- A. John the Baptist's Death Still Hurt Deeply
 - 1. Before feeding the 5000, Jesus had heard of John the Baptist's death
 - 2. He mourned deeply
 - a. John was Jesus' relative
 - b. John was Jesus' friend
 - c. John was Jesus' prophet and forerunner
 - d. John was a godly man, doing God's will
 - e. His head was severed from his body by the command of an evil king at his birthday party to please his conniving wife and his glutted dinner guests after the alluring dance of a beautiful young girl
 - 3. Jesus needed to be alone all along... but when He landed and saw a large crowd, He immediately put His own needs and desires aside...
 - a. He had compassion on them
 - b. He taught them many things
 - c. He healed all their sick
 - d. He fed all 5000 of the men plus women and children
 - e. He completely met their needs

- 4. Then, He sent them away!!
 - a. There was nothing more that needed to be done for them
 - b. There comes a time when it's time to go home!!
 - c. He even sent His own disciples away... forcefully!!

Matthew 14:22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd.

The Greek word translated "made" ("Jesus MADE the disciples get into the boat") is very strong... He ordered them, compelled them, constrained them to get into the boat and go on without Him

Notice also the word "Immediately"... Jesus was absolutely urgent about this

d. Then He dismissed the crowd... forcefully

Jesus was not unkind... just purposeful

He wanted to pray!!!

Isn't amazing how much the world's woes and sufferings and trials and difficulties can squeeze out our times of private prayer

- B. Christ's Recourse: Solitary Prayer
 - 1. Now at last it was time for solitary prayer
 - a. Solitary... up on a mountainside by Himself
 - b. It was night... imagine Jesus climbing up the side of a mountain in the dark, using only moonlight or starlight to guide Him
 - c. Looking out over the Sea of Galilee
 - d. Communing with His heavenly Father
 - 2. This was Christ's regular habit... His deepest source of refreshment

At the beginning of his ministry,

Mark 1:35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

After Jesus healed a leper, he strongly urged him to say nothing about it but merely to go offer the gift Moses commanded

Luke 5:15-16 Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. ¹⁶ But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

The crowds were overwhelming; Jesus' regular recourse was to go into solitary places for prayer

Another time, Jesus went off and spent the whole night alone in prayer:

Luke 6:12 One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.

Right after that He chose His twelve apostles

- 3. Jesus prayed for renewal of His soul, strengthening of His resolve, clarification of His goals, empowerment for His ministry
- 4. BUT HERE: Jesus just prayed to be comforted in the death of His friend, John
- C. The True Source of Christ's Power
 - 1. Jesus did a river of miracles, displaying supernatural power
 - 2. Jesus openly claimed that the Father was the true source of both the work to do and the supernatural power to do it
 - 3. In constant solitary communion with His Father, Jesus got His daily assignments, the wisdom on how to do those works, and the wonder-working power to do those works FROM THE FATHER
- John 14:10-11 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.
- John 10:32 Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many great miracles from the Father."
- NIV John 8:28 So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.
 - 4. Every miracle Jesus ever did was the power of the Father living in Him, working through Him
 - 5. He was about to walk on the water, still the storm, and heal countless hundreds and maybe thousands of sick people... ALL OF IT A DIRECT DISPLAY OF THE FATHER'S POWER IN HIM

II. The Disciples' Peril and Fear

- A. Fear: Inseparable Part of Life in a Sin-Cursed World
 - 1. Fear is intrinsic to our suffering here
 - 2. Fears are connected to the danger of physical and/or psychological pain
 - 3. All animals and even some plants show physical reactions to threats, to danger, to attack
 - a. Some flowers close up their petals at night
 - b. All animals have some physical reactions to threats: the skunk's spray, the deer's skittish behavior, the cat's arched back, the turtle's withdrawal into its shell
 - 4. Human fear is different... tied to our intelligence, our imagination, our anxieties
 - a. It is related to the curse of sin, and our desire to be free of death, mourning, crying, and pain
 - b. If we perceive that circumstances are lining up to cause us suffering and loss, we begin to fear
 - c. Our breath shortens, our heart rate escalates, our skin crawls & sweats, our eyes dart around, we get awful feelings in the pit of our stomach, our senses sharpen, our muscles tighten... we are AFRAID
 - d. Many times it amounts to nothing at all

Illus. Once we were missionaries in Japan, we got a call at 3:00 in the morning... once my head cleared from the deep sleep I was in, I was immediately afraid of that ringing phone... no one calls at 3 o'clock in the morning except for a dire emergency; sweating, I picked up the phone and shakily said "Hello...?"

It turned out to be a sweet Christian lady from America who merely forgot that the earth is round and that Japan is on the other side of the earth from the U.S. She said "Oh, I hope I called before the kids go down for their afternoon nap!" I didn't have the heart to tell her what time it was!!

So, that was a fear that amounted to nothing at all

Other times, fear has come because the threat was immediate and real

5 Lots of different kinds of fear

worry, anxiety, terror, fright, paranoia, horror, panic, dread, phobia

- 6. All of them only because sin entered the world, and death through sin; because God has cursed the world and the principle of great loss is a real one
- B. Professional Fishermen in Grave Danger
 - 1. Commercial fishing is one of the most dangerous professions in the world
 - 2. CNN had a list of the most dangerous professions in the US; the highest fatality rate was for timber cutters... loggers; 118 fatalities per 100,000 workers
 - 3. Commercial fishing was the second highest: 71 fatalities per 100,000

The crab fishery in Alaska is particularly perilous, according to one University of Alaska economist who said, "The environment in which the crabbing is done, in the Bering Sea, in winter, has to be some of the worst conditions on Earth. You're hundreds of miles from port, in stormy seas, with ice forming all over, sometimes so thick it capsizes the boat."

4. Sea of Galilee especially perilous

The peaceful calm of the Sea of Galilee can quickly become transformed by a violent storm. Winds funnel through the east-west aligned Galilee hill country and stir up the waters quickly. More violent are the winds that come off the hills of the Golan Heights to the east. Trapped in the basin, the winds can be deadly to fishermen. A storm in March 1992 sent waves 10 feet high crashing into downtown Tiberias and causing significant damage

- 5. The disciples were caught by a storm... perhaps not as serious as the one in which Jesus was sleeping in the boat, boat perilous enough
- Matthew 14:24 but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.
- John 6:18 A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough.
 - 6. The disciples were having a brutal time... straining at the oars, trying to get their little wooden boat off the lake
 - C. Afraid of Jesus
 - 1. Soon the disciples will be even more afraid of Jesus than they were of the storm
- Matthew 14:25-27 During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. ²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."
 - 2. Their superstitions played into this reaction

- 3. Where do "ghosts" fit into the biblical world view??
- 4. It will come up again, at an even more significant moment, when Jesus is risen from the dead and shows Himself to His disciples
- Luke 24:36-43 Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." ⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence.
 - D. Fear the Great Enemy of Faith
 - 1. Over one hundred times in the Bible God, and angel of God or a prophet or leader from God assures the people of God: DO NOT BE AFRAID
 - 2. God is constantly laboring against our fears because our fears are constantly laboring against our faith
 - 3. God wants us to TRUST and NOT BE AFRAID
- Psalm 56:3-4 When I am afraid, I will trust in you. ⁴ In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?
- III. Christ's Compassion and Power
 - A. Seeing the Disciples' Peril and Coming to Their Rescue
 - 1. Jesus actually was watching His disciples while He was praying
- Mark 6:47-48 When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. ⁴⁸ He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night he went out to them, walking on the lake.
 - 2. Either He could see them from the mountainside where He was praying
 - 3. OR supernatural sight, vision, of their peril was given Him by God the Father
 - 4. In any case, Jesus sees them, knows their danger, and goes forth to rescue them from their danger
 - 5. His real goal here is to teach them His supernatural power

6. So He WALKS ON THE WATER

- 7. This is supernatural power, a violation of physical laws
 - a. The expression "to walk on water" means to attempt to do something miraculous, impossible
 - b. Jesus' disciples recognized this as a miracle... clear evidence of Jesus' sovereign rule over nature, over physics, over wind and water
 - c. Modern skeptics don't see it that way, however!!

According to a study led by Florida State University Professor of Oceanography Doron Nof, it's more likely that Jesus walked on an isolated patch of floating ice.

The study points to a rare combination of optimal water and atmospheric conditions for development of a unique, localized freezing phenomenon that Nof and his co-authors call "springs ice."

In what is now northern Israel, such ice could have formed on the cold freshwater surface of the Sea of Galilee -- known as Lake Kinneret by modern-day Israelis -- when already chilly temperatures briefly plummeted during one of the two protracted cold periods between 2,500 and 1,500 years ago.

A frozen patch floating on the surface of the small lake would have been difficult to distinguish from the unfrozen water surrounding it.

The text does not allow this kind of foolishness, however

Mark's gospel says Jesus was walking past the boat... making progress faster than they were rowing

This is clearly portrayed as a supernatural act of great power by Jesus Christ

8. When they see Him, they cry out, as I mentioned, thinking He's a ghost; He reassures them that it is He

Matthew 14:26-27 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. ²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

- B. Seeing Peter's Peril and Coming to His Rescue
 - 1. We'll cover this one in just a moment
 - 2. However, He sees Peter sinking and immediately rescues him
- C. Seeing Gennesaret's Peril and Coming to Their Rescue

- Matthew 14:34-36 When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret. ³⁵ And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to him ³⁶ and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed
 - 1. Again, Jesus' relentless compassion meets their relentless needs
 - 2. Jesus is a well of satisfying water that never runs out
 - 3. There is NOTHING that He cannot do, no situation is too difficult for His power and His compassion to solve
 - D. Seeing Our Peril and Coming to Our Rescue
 - 1. Jesus Still Looks at Us, Still Sees Our Troubles
 - 2. Frankly Jesus isn't just AWARE of our troubles, He is orchestrating them and using them to shape us and form us for His glory
 - 3. He is bringing the winds, He is bringing the waves, He is causing the ship to toss, He is challenging our status quo
 - 4. Yet Jesus Doesn't Flaunt His Power... notice that, though He doesn't need any boat at all, He still gets in the boat and rides with them
 - 5. Jesus keeps His power hidden from us as well... we must simply trust Him that He is in control
 - 6. After Jesus got into the boat, notice that the trial immediately ended

Matthew 14:32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.

- 7. John goes even beyond this to say the boat immediately arrived at its destination
 - a. The account began with the boat a considerable distance from land
- Matthew 14:24 but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.
 - b. BUT as soon as Jesus entered the boat, it ARRIVED
- John 6:21 Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.
 - 8. This shows the simple fact that Christ will not tempt us beyond what we can bear

- IV. Peter's Supernatural Journey: Beginning, Middle, and End
 - A. The Beginning: Peter's Astonishing Faith
- Matthew 14:28-29 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.
 - 1. Peter was willing to ask something no one else would ask
 - 2. Jesus granted to him a supernatural power no other human being has ever had
 - 3. We forget that God can do immeasurably more than we can imagine
 - 4. We forget also that God can therefore do THROUGH US immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine
- John 14:12-14 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.
 - 5. What we need now are people willing to step out of the boat and trust Jesus for something extraordinary; something only HIS POWER can do through us
 - B. The Middle: Peter's Insufficient Faith
- Matthew 14:30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"
 - 1. It's very obvious to any trained Bible reader what happened here: Peter stopped looking at Christ and started looking at the obstacles
 - 2. Last week: we spoke of how Jesus calls on us to do supernatural things, commands us to walk on water if we have the faith
 - 3. We spoke of how Jesus shuts us up into looking upward not inward or outward around us
 - 4. Peter forgot how he'd come that far on the water... the same faith in Christ's power that enabled him to take three or four supernatural steps would have carried him the rest of the way
 - 5. BUT NOTICE: even in his failure, even while beginning to sink, he still knew where to turn
 - 6. LORD, SAVE ME he cried out

- 7. Thus did Jesus say "You of little faith; why did you doubt?"
- C. The End: Jesus' Powerful Rescue
 - 1. After Peter cried out, Jesus rescued him
 - 2. He didn't let him flounder or sputter or begin to drown
 - 3. He merely reached down and pulled him up
 - 4. But having done that, he spoke the rebuke we just mentioned
 - 5. Jesus never coddled unbelief... NEVER
 - 6. He was rescuing Peter not merely from drowning, but also from a greater fate: that of unbelief
 - 7. A far greater trial would come in Peter's life... the night of Jesus' arrest Peter would deny Jesus three times
 - 8. The focus of Jesus' prayers for Peter was the same: Peter's faith
- Luke 22:31-32 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."
 - 9. Jesus wants us to trust Him completely, to step out of the comfortable boat and come to Him through the winds and waves; to do things we could NEVER do by our own power
- V. The Inevitable Conclusion: Worshiping Christ as God
 - A. Jesus Claim to Deity
 - 1. vs. 27 When they cry out, Jesus literally says "Take courage, I AM"
 - 2. This is the name God gave Moses for Himself in the flames of the burning bush
 - 3. The name YAHWEH is related to this statement
 - 4. Jesus is claiming deity here with His words as He is proving deity by His actions
 - B. The Disciples' Natural Reaction to Jesus' Supernatural Power
- Matthew 14:33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."
 - C. God's Ultimate Goal: Worship in Spirit and in Truth

D. No Jealousy in the Trinity

- 1. All true worship for Christ is accepted as worship by the Father
- 2. There is no jealousy in the Trinity
- 3. The Father desires that all may honor the Son even as they honor the Father
- 4. This is the goal of God's exaltation of Christ after the cross
- 5. Jesus died on the cross to purify us from every sin and to bring us into His presence
- 6. God the Father desires that we worship Him for it

Philippians 2:8-11 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross! ⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

VI. Applications

A. Solitary Prayer

- 1. Are you running on empty? Worn down by the demands of modern life?
- 2. How's your personal prayer life? Do you do what Jesus did... retreating to solitary places for prayer?
- 3. My field in Massachusetts... place of regular solitary prayer and renewal
- 4. Solitude frees you from distractions, enables you to concentrate on God's still, small voice
- B. Time for Allegory?? "Lord of my rocking boat": How do we apply this passage?
 - 1. Many people have used this very passage to make an allegory of Jesus and Peter both walking on the water
 - 2. I want to avoid allegorizing this... because then we lose the historical significance of the miracle done in space and time
 - a. This was no myth, no allegory
 - b. There are powerful details in the text: the oars straining against the contrary tide; the distance from the shore measured in John 6:19 at 25 or 30 stadia (approximately 3 or four miles); Peter's odd request

- c. Plus, there's the honesty of the failures of the disciples: Mark said they didn't believe that Jesus could walk on water because their hearts were hard and they hadn't learned the lesson of the loaves and fishes; Peter started well but finished poorly
- d. SO this is no allegory
- e. Furthermore, we don't want to lose the significance of who Peter was: an apostle of Christ endowed by him with supernatural powers
- 3. BUT that doesn't mean we can't apply it to trials in our lives
 - a. Many times trials are likened to storms, tossing waves, winds
 - b. Paul likens the attack of false doctrine on immature believers to a storm
- Ephesians 4:14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.
 - c. James does that concerning unbelief when praying
- James 1:6-8 But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.
 - 4. So, let's apply the lessons directly here... If Jesus can walk on water, He can control the storms and trials of our lives
 - 5. If Peter can get out of his boat and walk to Jesus, we can trust Him to do supernatural things through us as well
 - C. Peter's Boldness in Faith Commendable
 - 1. By way of allegory, let's say the boat represents our place of safety and comfort
 - 2. Nothing wrong with boats... Jesus used one Himself after walking on the water
 - 3. BUT I believe comfort and security can be enemies of the advance of the Gospel
 - 4. There are some people who are able to venture forth from the comfortable confines of their lives and trust Christ for far more than the others who stayed in the boat
 - 5. D.L. Moody was just such a man

- a. Perhaps the greatest evangelist of the 19th century
- b. A man God used to reach over 100 million people with the gospel in an age before electronic communication
- c. Early in his Christian life, he made two fateful decisions
 - i) To be totally sold out for Christ

"The World has yet to see what God can do with a man fully consecrated to Him." These words, spoken to D. L. Moody by Henry Varley, a fellow evangelist, fired his imagination and gave him a vision for living all out to the glory of God. "By God's help, I aim to be that man," Moody said.

He once said to R.A. Torrey, his coworker for Christ,

"Torrey, if I believed that God wanted me to jump out of that window, I would jump."

ii) To be totally committed to personal evangelism

R.A. Torrey, Moody's successor and fellow laborer preached a tribute sermon "Why God Used D.L. Moody"

Moody made the resolution, shortly after he himself was saved, that he would never let twenty-four hours pass over his head without speaking to at least one person about his soul. His was a very busy life, and sometimes he would forget his resolution until the last hour, and sometimes he would get out of bed, dress, go out and talk to someone about his soul in order that he might not let one day pass without having definitely told at least one of his fellow-mortals about his need and the Savior who could meet it.

One night Mr. Moody was going home from his place of business. It was very late, and it suddenly occurred to him that he had not spoken to one single person that day about accepting Christ. He said to himself: "Here's a day lost. I have not spoken to anyone today and I shall not see anybody at this late hour." But as he walked up the street he saw a man standing under a lamppost. The man was a perfect stranger to him, though it turned out afterwards the man knew who Mr. Moody was. He stepped up to this stranger and said: "Are you a Christian?" The man replied: "That is none of your business, whether I am a Christian or not. If you were not a sort of a preacher I would knock you into the gutter for your impertinence." Mr. Moody said a few earnest words and passed on.

The next day that man called upon one of Mr. Moody's prominent business friends and said to him: "That man Moody of yours over on the North Side is doing more harm than he is good. He has got zeal without knowledge. He stepped up to me last night, a perfect stranger, and insulted me. He asked me if I were a Christian, and I told him it was none of his business and if he were not a sort of a preacher I would knock him into the gutter for his impertinence. He is doing more harm than he is good. He has got zeal without knowledge." Mr. Moody's friend sent for him and said: "Moody, you are doing more harm than you are good; you've got zeal without knowledge: you insulted a friend of mine on the street last night. You went up to him, a perfect stranger, and asked him if he were a Christian, and he

tells me if you had not been a sort of a preacher he would have knocked you into the gutter for your impertinence. You are doing more harm than you are good; you have got zeal without knowledge."

Mr. Moody went out of that man's office somewhat crestfallen. He wondered if he were not doing more harm than he was good, if he really had zeal without knowledge. (Let me say, in passing, it is far better to have zeal without knowledge than it is to have knowledge without zeal. Some men and women are as full of knowledge as an egg is of meat; they are so deeply versed in Bible truth that they can sit in criticism on the preachers and give the preachers pointers, but they have so little zeal that they do not lead one soul to Christ in a whole year.)

Weeks passed by. One night Mr. Moody was in bed when he heard a tremendous pounding at his front door. He jumped out of bed and rushed to the door. He thought the house was on fire. He thought the man would break down the door. He opened the door and there stood this man. He said: "Mr. Moody, I have not had a good night's sleep since that night you spoke to me under the lamppost, and I have come around at this unearthly hour of the night for you to tell me what I have to do to be saved." Mr. Moody took him in and told him what to do to be saved. Then he accepted Christ, and when the Civil War broke out, he went to the front and laid down his life fighting for his country.

Another night, Mr. Moody got home and had gone to bed before it occurred to him that he had not spoken to a soul that day about accepting Christ. "Well," he said to himself, "it is no good getting up now; there will be nobody on the street at this hour of the night." But he got up, dressed and went to the front door. It was pouring rain. "Oh," he said, "there will be no one out in this pouring rain. Just then he heard the patter of a man's feet as he came down the street, holding an umbrella over his head. Then Mr. Moody darted out and rushed up to the man and said: "May I share the shelter of your umbrella?" "Certainly," the man replied. Then Mr. Moody said: "Have you any shelter in the time of storm?" and preached Jesus to him. Oh, men and women, if we were as full of zeal for the salvation of souls as that, how long would it be before the whole country would be shaken by the power of a mighty, Godsent revival?

Let's be more like Peter, more like D.L. Moody

Jesus rules the winds

Jesus rules the waves

Let's trust Him and build His kingdom by getting out of our boat and walking toward Him by faith