

THE NATURE OF FAITH AND BELIEF

Matthew 14:22-15:28

- I. Prayer

- II. Jesus and the Disciples
 - A. Setting the scene

 - B. Water walking
 - 1. The fear reaction

 - 2. The calling out

 - 3. Jesus' response

 - 4. Questions
 - a. Who and/or what does Peter doubt?
 - b. What does Peter have to be afraid of?
 - c. Why *doesn't* he have to be afraid here?
 - d. Are Christians *allowed* to be afraid? Why or why not? (And who taught you that?)
 - e. Do you believe in ghosts/spirits acting in a malevolent fashion?

 - C. The healing work is renewed

- III. Rules and Loopholes and the wiggle room of faith
 - A. Washing and ritual purity – a presenting problem

B. Jesus' response – Korban and Commandments.

C. Inside and Outside

Principle: God is less concerned about what goes into you than what comes out of you.

D. Questions

- 1. How does "holiness" get in the way of faithfulness? How does that happen in religions, and how does that happen in us?
- 2. How has the religion of the Pharisees created an opportunity to self-serve in the name of God? Does that lead anywhere?
- 3. Why is it easier to keep oneself pure externally than to keep oneself pure internally?

IV. A willingness to argue for truth

A. Lord, help.

B. Questions

- 1. Why does Jesus make this so... difficult?

- 2. Why does the woman keep fighting?

V. Prayer

