



Servant Ministry

Matthew 14:13-31 & Mark 6:51-52

Big Idea: How to Get Absolute Confidence God is with You.

Bottom Line: Servant ministry enables us to experience God's power in our weaknesses. And so, we grow.

Review:

The New Testament and the Old Testament teach that individuals connect and reconnect with God through faith and trust.

That makes sense because our relationship with God was broken through a lack of trust.

In this Big Faith series, we are discovering the five things God uses to grow our faith:

1. Practical Teaching
2. Wholesome Relationships
3. Personal Disciplines
4. Servant Ministry
5. Challenging Circumstances

Introduction:

When people tell their stories, they usually talk about stepping out of their comfort zone to serve someone or get involved in some kind of spiritual activity aimed at helping other people.

Often, you hear things like, "I was way in over my head." "I was way out of my league." "I was scared and praying hard."

They didn't feel qualified or trained. They just saw a need. They just heard about an opportunity, and they were available. And all of a sudden, right in the middle of their service, God showed up.

The story in Matthew 14 captures the tension and emotion surrounding the experience of servant ministry.

Truth:

Read Matthew 14:13-31 and Mark 6:51-52.

And ... There we stand.

You are gifted by God for ministry, and you are challenged to step out of your comfort zone and do something that only God can complete.

You know it's not out of guilt with the pastor's plea but a burden from God to move forward.

However, you begin thinking, "What if this ...? What if that ...?"

You feel a tug, but you're scared, apprehensive, and unsure.

Do you know what that tension is? It is your faith being stretched. Do I really trust God that much? Am I confident God is really with me?

You're feeling two things:

Fear – What if it doesn't work?

Inadequacy – I don't know how. Who am I?

That's the walk of faith.

I'll do what I can do and trust God to do what only he can do.

Everybody stands there at one point or another.

Nobody knows what hangs in the balance of those decisions, but two things I do know. One thing that hangs in the balance is the maturity of your faith and the maturity of somebody else's faith as well.

Conclusion:

Aren't you glad somebody took a chance, ignored his fear, and stepped through the door of his own insecurity to introduce you to Christ? All of us were somebody's personal ministry at some point.

Parents: Aren't you glad somebody took a chance to minister to your children? Does anybody ever feel fully equipped and ready to work with middle schoolers? Starting Point folks? Lead a small group? Sing on a worship team? Nope.

Personal ministry enables us to experience God's power in our weaknesses.

As your pastor, I covet for you the experience of seeing God work through your weaknesses and fears in the lives of other people. Your faith will soar. Your faith will get BIG. And as your faith gets BIG, your heavenly Father will be honored.

How many of you took swimming lessons? You were probably terrified.

And I'm so glad my parents pushed me through the fear.

Application & Next Steps

- Memorize Matthew 14:27
- Ask God for a Servant Ministry to Grow Your Faith
- Walk Through the Door God Opens