Where Do We Turn When Life is Hard?

Matthew 14:1-36
Introduction

When Life Comes Undone – Tim Addington

Life can come undone at any time. We are not immune from trials as Christians.

The issue is not so much why do they happen as what do we do when they happen?

In times of trouble, we need to turn to Christ with our needs.
I. HUMAN SOLUTIONS CAN’T SOLVE ALL OUR PROBLEMS.
MATTHEW 14:13-16

Jesus identifies with our needs. He understands this fallen world in which we live and he has compassion on us.
The disciples did what we all do when we are faced with a problem. They looked for a human solution. Jesus wanted them to learn a greater lesson. If they were going to make it as disciples, it would be by his power and not their own.
“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5
II. OUR RESOURCES ARE LIMITED. GOD’S RESOURCES ARE UNLIMITED.

MATTHEW 14:17

The disciples took an inventory of their resources and came up with five small barley loaves and two small fish.
Philip said, “Eight months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!” John 6:7

It was impossible and that’s exactly what Jesus wanted them to see.
“Jesus asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.” John 6:6

Sometimes God backs us into a corner with no place else to turn so we will learn to trust him.
III. WHEN WE TURN TO CHRIST WITH OUR NEEDS, WE ARE BLESSED AND GOD GETS THE GLORY.
MATTHEW 14:18-21

Jesus took their limited resources, blessed them and multiplied them.
The feeding of the 5000 may have actually been the feeding of the 15,000 or 20,000.

It was a miracle and God got the glory.
Whose lives were blessed?
The disciples and the people were blessed.

Jesus is the only one who can meet our real needs and he often does it through people.

We (the church) are to be his hands and feet in the world.
IV. JESUS IS LORD AND GOD.

MATTHEW 14:22-36

When Jesus walked on the water, he was doing something the OT says that only God can do.
“God alone stretches out the heavens and treads on the waves of the sea.”
Job 9:8
When Jesus said, “Take courage, It is I.” he was actually applying to himself the personal name of God, Yahweh, which means “I am”.

The climax of the story comes in verse 33 when they worshiped him saying, “Truly, you are the Son of God.”
Conclusion

Why do we come to Jesus with our needs?

• Only Jesus can meet our deepest needs.
• Only Jesus can calm the storm and calm our heart.
• Only Jesus is Lord and God.