

GARY REPORT

Walking On Troubled Water

In about 1968, when I was in college at Texas Tech in Lubbock, Texas, I attended on campus a presentation by Rod McKuen—a poet, singer, and songwriter. The only thing I remember from that event was something he said that I have never forgotten, and have considered it from time to time. He said, “You can never really live, until you make yourself vulnerable.” Well, I have certainly been vulnerable in life, on many occasions. And speaking of being vulnerable, let us consider a most certain demonstration of this.

In Matthew 14:22-33, we find the account where after the feeding of the five thousand with the unleavened Passover bread (vss. 13-21), the disciples were then in a boat on the Sea of Galilee and there was a strong wind producing threatening waves. And you can be most certain, all of this is prophetic. Suddenly, Yahshua appeared, walking on the water, greatly frightening the disciples. But He spoke to them, “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.” And with this Peter exclaimed, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water,” which He did so. Peter then got out of the boat and walked on the water to meet Him. But, he became frightened and began to sink, and cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Yahshua reached out and took hold of him and said, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” And they got into the boat.

Why do I share these things? First, I am getting ready to follow the words of Rod McKuen and make myself vulnerable. For the last several months, increasingly I have become weak and very tired, and this has been from three pressing things in my life. First, for whatever reason, I am even moreso feeling the loss of my family. As a husband and father, I had and still have to this day high expectations and values. I had an incredibly good family—my wife and five children—and faithfully devoted myself to them. In fact, after I lost them, I was speaking with someone from the past and they told me that if at that time they had composed a list of couples who would separate, my wife and I would have been the last on the list. From all of the pain I have experienced from this loss, I have come to the personal conclusion that the degree of pain from a fall is determined by the height of the fall, and this fall was very great! And, the fall is intensified all the more when one is principled and has high expectations. For whatever reasons, of late the loss of my family has been a great, great pain to me.

The second source of pain has been a spiritual daughter. As much as she loves me, there have still been difficult times as she grows and matures. Love and devotion are often sources of pain.

And the third source of pain has been my responsibility for Africa. Frankly, it is going very well there, and we can all rejoice in what the Father is doing. But the responsibility for them and meeting their financial needs has recently intensified, and most recently I have been delayed in an ability to meet those needs. Again, like with my family, I want to be fully adequate as a father to them as well, and of late the

financial inadequacy produced much increased pain. And with all three of these, I look to the Father and seek the best.

Regarding all of this, for whatever reason, like Peter I was sinking down into those dark and troubled waters. With this weakness I even examined my own life to see if there was something I was doing wrong that was bringing this about pertaining to Africa. It did not look good. And add to that the deep sorrow regarding my family, as well as the weight of my spiritual daughter, I felt deep, deep, sometimes insurmountable pain. But something then lifted my hopes. It was then that the Father brought to me the account regarding Peter. The purpose of the Bride is to bring Immanuel back to this troubled and dark and storm-tossed world, and people do not even know how bad things really are and the ill fate that awaits us. It is as Yahshua declared: "Unless those days had been cut short, no flesh would have been saved; but **through the elect** those days will be cut short" (Matthew 24:22).

I was experiencing that fate and the dark and tempestuous sea that brings death and loss, and in the role of Elijah am truly stepping out of the boat to welcome Immanuel's unexpected coming. And, as an intercessor and in preparing the way for Immanuel, my personal experience tells us where we are at this time, and don't even know it. I not only saw the meaning of this parable, but experienced it in my ongoing fears and sorrows. And we will all sink down into the black waters of death and loss unless Immanuel comes to the attentive "Peter" who is willing to step out of the storm-tossed boat and walk on those troubled waters. "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You." And "Peter" is more than one man, but the fulfillment of the work that was begun by him—now Immanuel's Second Remnant Bride. Are you willing to step out of the security of the little boat? I am and have done so, and invite you to do the same. We must go to Immanuel at His return. Do you see this? The second Remnant is the fulfillment of this living parable.

And let us also note that Mark 6:47 tells us that "the boat was in the middle of the sea." As seen here and in 2 Kings 20:1-7 [4] and John 7:8-14 [14], it is uniquely in the middle where Yahweh changes His mind and does good, which is what we need today. And this is what happened with regard to the needed funds in Africa—they did finally come in and vital needs were met. Blessed be Yahweh! However, there are always financial needs, just as we always need to breathe. Such is life. And regarding my family and my spiritual daughter, the latter is making good progress, and my relationship with my oldest daughter, Christi, is better now than it has been in eighteen years. And that is saying a lot! As for the rest of them at this time, there is no contact, but the pain I was experiencing is not as bad now. I wait on Yahweh for what He will do. We so desperately need Him!

And let us recall and give heed to the words of Yahshua to Peter before He stilled the wind: "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" May Yahweh increase our faith, even as it is written in Mark 9:24, "I do believe; help my unbelief." Amen! May Yahweh fulfill His word and give us the faith and courage to step out onto the dark and troubled waters and go out to meet Him. Come quickly, Immanuel! We desperately, desperately need you!

Gary

P.S.: Confirming the relevance of this highly prophetic testimony regarding the return of Immanuel, you will notice in Matthew 14:23 that immediately preceding His walking on the water, He was alone on a high mountain: "After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone." Brothers and sisters, Yahshua has been alone on a high mountain for two thousand years—in heaven. And He must now come down and penetrate this consuming darkness and rescue us from the troubled and threatening waves that will take us all to death. We do not realize how desperate we are for His return. But He knows, for this account reveals that which He must now do. Read the entire account for yourself. It is a living prophecy for today, and He has revealed it to us. Blessed be Yahweh!