



Don't lose your focus

June 18, 2018

MATTHEW 14:25-30 NKJV – (25) Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. (26) And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. (27) But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." (28) And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." (29) So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. (30) But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

Peter didn't just want to *watch* what Jesus was doing, he wanted to be a *part* of it. Jesus *invited* Peter and *enabled* him to be a part. *Come*. One word, but it means so much here. Come experience something you never dreamed of. Come to me. Come be with me. Come be part of a miracle. Come be an example to others. Come follow me. Come, for it is I.

When Peter "saw the wind" he was afraid. Huh??? He didn't see the water, the waves, a large fish, the depths... He saw the wind. Yet, you can't even see wind!! There was plenty to see and be afraid of, but I'm struck by the fact that what he "saw" was something unseeable. How true it is. Our fears are largely in our head. Largely imagined dangers. They could be real and certainly, there are real things to fear ...but so often the ones that sink us are less the waves and the water and more the wind. That's where Satan gets us – the unseeable. It's what he plants in our mind, what he tell us to "see".

Of course, Peter lost focus on Jesus. His focus on the wind caused him to sink. We must keep our eyes on Jesus. We must remember, "Greater is He..." Jesus asks Peter, "Why did he doubt?" and calls Peter "ye of little faith". Here's the thing—starting and finishing aren't the same. Hastiness, ignorance, inexperience—all these things can get you out of the boat. You can be walking on water before you realize it and it wasn't faith or bravery at all that got you there.

We might think that Peter should had had enough evidence that as he has walked on water and gotten close enough to Christ that He could reach out a helping hand. You might think that far out onto the water he would "know by now" that He could trust Jesus to sustain him, but he sank in fear. And in this life, we must remember, we are not exempt.

No matter how far out on the water a person may be, how much they seem to have trusted Christ with their life, they are still liable to fear. They are but a wind's blow away from sinking in doubt. If it's you out on the water, be aware. Keep your eyes on Jesus. If it's someone else and you're in the boat watching, pray for them. Encourage them. Be compassionate if, for a moment, they sink.

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 4:25

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Yesterday's victories will not carry you through today. Neither should yesterday's defeats dominate tomorrow.