

Daily Devotional, March 17, 2021 The Calm in Our Storms

Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" Matthew 14:23–31 (NIV)

There has always been something about Peter that when I was younger, I truly resonated with: Peter always tended to be an impetuous, leap before you look, speak before you think, "charge!" type of guy. And while he holds a deep and abiding faith in Jesus, to the point where he is the first of the disciples to recognize Jesus as the Messiah, Peter is also the only one of the twelve to deny Christ. In Peter, we can see an aspect of humanity that resonates with so many of us.

In this passage, as soon as Peter realizes that it is Jesus coming towards them, walking on water, Peter decides that he wants to be able to join his Lord on top of the waves. In all of his boldness and impulsiveness it just seems natural to him not to be afraid of the storm around him, not to look at the whitecaps that are tossing the boat around, but simply to be near to Jesus, to feel safe under His protection.

So often, we want to be near to Jesus, to draw into His presence, especially during the times when storms are raging around us, seemingly without end. It is then that we search through the turbulence, hoping beyond hope to make out even the faintest of images of our Savior. When the voice of the Messiah calls out, "It is I. Don't be afraid," we too can act in faith as Peter did; we can step out of the shadows to respond to the call that Christ has placed upon our lives. Even more, though, in those moments when our fears and concerns can overwhelm us, we too can reach out to the hand of our Savior and be pulled back into His comforting embrace.

Is there a time in your life when you have "stepped out of your boat" to do something that was uncomfortable for you? How is Jesus calling you to respond to His call in your life today?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, We thank you for seeking us, not as complete projects, but as your people who yet need help on our path of faith. Grant us the boldness of Peter to seek You, even in those moments when we might feel weak. And when we falter, please to continue to grow us into the people that You have created us to be. In Your gracious name, Jesus, Amen.