



# FAILING FORWARD IN SPITE OF FEAR

MATTHEW 14:22-33

THE JOURNEY OF PETER FOLLOWING JESUS



## I. The disciples failed to fulfill God's commands in their own \_\_\_\_\_.

*Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ... but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. vv. 22, 24*

■ IF YOU'RE AFRAID, TRUST IN JESUS' \_\_\_\_\_ . (v. 25)

## II. The disciples failed to recognize Jesus amid chaotic \_\_\_\_\_.

*But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. v. 26*

■ IF YOU'RE AFRAID, SPEAK TO JESUS \_\_\_\_\_ . (vv. 27-28)

## III. Peter failed to focus on Jesus because he was \_\_\_\_\_.

*He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." vv. 29-30*

■ IF YOU'RE AFRAID, REMEMBER JESUS' \_\_\_\_\_ . (vv. 30-31)

IN SPITE OF FEAR, FAIL FORWARD CLOSER TO JESUS.

## HOME GROUP

# Lesson + Devotional

*Before you begin, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and guide your study.*

1. Read Matthew 14:22-33. After performing the great miracle of multiplying the loaves and fish, what was Jesus doing after sending the disciples ahead? Why is this significant?
2. What three things did the disciples and Peter fail to do, according to the sermon?
  - 1
  - 2
  - 3
3. How does each thing the disciples failed to do parallel your own experience?
  - 1
  - 2
  - 3
4. Why is it important to note that Jesus told the disciples to get into the boat without Him, and that they obeyed Him, especially in light of what had previously happened in Matthew 8:23-27?
5. Think back over some of the storms you've experienced in your life. How have they helped you grow in your faith?
6. What storm are you facing now? What fear is demanding your attention and keeping you from focusing on Jesus?
7. Read Romans 8:34 and Hebrews 4:14-16. How do these verses encourage you?
8. What are some practical ways you can remind yourself to keep your eyes on Jesus and off your fears this week? (Memorize a verse, post notes in strategic places, set a reminder on your smart phone, etc.)

## HELPFUL Quotes

Fear is unwarranted where Jesus is present. - Donald Hagner

As we read our Bibles, we discover that there are two kinds of storms: storms of *correction*, when God disciplines us, and storms of *perfection*, when God helps us to grow. Jonah was in a storm because he disobeyed God and had to be corrected. The disciples were in a storm because they obeyed Christ and had to be perfected. Jesus had tested them in a storm before, when He was in the boat with them (Matt 8:23-27). But now He tested them by being out of the boat. Many Christians have the mistaken idea that obedience to God's will produces "smooth sailing." But this is not true. "In the world ye shall have tribulation," Jesus promised (John 16:33). When we find ourselves in the storm because we have obeyed the Lord, we must remember that He brought us here and He can care for us. - Warren Wiersbe

## YOUR NEXT STEP AT Christ Chapel



### Connect and Belong

New or returning, fill out a Connect Card and experience life together at Christ Chapel.

### Together in Prayer

We want to pray with and for you this week as we go to God together.



### Partner with Us by Giving

Be a part of what God is doing near and far by giving to local and global ministry partners.

### Upcoming Events

Join in to grow your faith, make disciples, and reach those who do not know or walk with Jesus.



## A WONDERFUL Offer

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Admit that you're a sinner, separated from a holy and perfect God.  
**(Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)**
2. Understand that the penalty for your sin is death – eternal separation from God and all that is good.  
**(Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)**
3. Believe that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and conquered death by rising from the dead.  
**(Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)**
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior from sin and death and your provider of true and eternal life.  
**(Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)**

**You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:**

Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in him alone as the only way to be reconciled to you. Thank you for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen.



We'd love to know about your decision. Scan the QR code to learn more about following Jesus!