

Matthew 14:30

But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

I think we all know the story of Peter walking on the water with Jesus, and Peter taking his eyes off of Jesus, and Peter started to sink. When I read this story, I discovered that there are at least five things we can learn from this.

First, even though we may look down on Peter for not trusting Jesus, we tend to forget that Peter was the only one out of the twelve to step out of the boat.

† **Matthew 14:28** *And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."*

Yet we never see Peter's faith of stepping out of the boat and the others lack of faith by staying in the boat.

Second, Peter walked on water as he kept his eyes on Jesus. That is what happens with faith, we do things we never, ever thought we would do before, and we do because Jesus calls us to. Just as Jesus called Peter to step out of the boat, which is the third thing.

Matthew 14:2 *So He said, "**Come.**" And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.*

Peter never said, "No, I was just kidding Lord, I really do not want to step out of the boat. Hey, why not have John come out instead, after all, isn't he the disciple whom You love?"

The fourth thing is something that we tend to focus on, and that is that Peter took his eyes off of Jesus. But there are two things we tend to skim over, or not give much thought to, and that is; First, yes, Peter took his eyes off of Jesus, but he also had a relationship that was strong enough, that he could still call out to Jesus in the midst of the storm and his failure. But the real fourth thing is that even though Peter took his eyes off of Jesus, Jesus was still standing right there next to Peter. Jesus did not say, "Dude, you were doing so well, but you took your eyes off of Me, so I'm out of here." Jesus did not say or do that, and this should be huge for us, because when those storms hit, and we all know that they do, and even if for a moment we take our eyes off of Jesus, He is still standing right there with us.

† **Matthew 14:30-31** *But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "**O you of little faith, why did you doubt?**"*

So, we think that is the end of the story, but remember I said there are at least five things. So, what is the fifth? It's in the last verse and has to do with the eleven that were in the boat.

† **Matthew 14:32-33** *And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."*

We tend to forget that the eleven were watching all that was going on the entire time, and I believe the end result is that it encouraged the eleven. "Yeah, but Peter failed" you may think, which he did, but the encouragement was not that Peter failed, but that Jesus was still standing right there with Peter, even though he did. Also, they were encouraged that if anyone fell out of the boat, Jesus would be right there to save them, just like He saved Peter. And our favorite part is probably that they also saw Jesus calm the storm, and we can all use those stories that encourage us that eventually, Jesus will calm the storm!

So, there are times when we are a Peter, and have those moments of faith where we step out, and also those moments of failure, sometimes, all at the same time. Also, there are times when we are like the eleven, sitting in the boat, seeing Jesus work in someone else's life, and being encouraged by them and what they went through.

† **Psalm 73:22-25** *I was so foolish and ignorant; I was like a beast before You. Nevertheless I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand. You will guide me with Your counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.*

† **Psalm 139:17-18** *How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.*