

Serving the Lord comes with hardship. Jesus “made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side” (Matthew 14:22). It was obedience to the Lord that put the disciples in the middle of a frightfully choppy sea that night. In the same way, those who choose to follow Jesus will sometimes find themselves in difficult circumstances. The greatest of blessings comes with a life in Christ, both here and in eternity, but not without a “price.”

When in distress, one can fail to see the Lord is near to help. There was Jesus, the One able to calm the storm, and the disciples didn't even recognize Him! Even after He identified Himself, Peter, at least, continued to doubt that it was really Him, that He was in fact among them (vs. 28- “IF it is you”). Sounds all too familiar. When the world is dark, and you're surrounded by troubled waters, it can be easy to lose sight of the Lord, or forget that He is near to hear and help. But thankfully, human failings don't change hard facts. And the fact is that “[God] is not far from each one of us, for in Him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:27-28). He can be called upon, and should be.

Fear undermines faith. Think of it. Peter was walking on water! He was doing the unsinkable. Because he believed that the Lord could make the impossible possible, and acted on that belief, he was experiencing the power of God in a way no man ever had before. And it lasted as long as “he walked on the water to go to Jesus” (Matthew 14:29). But then Peter did something that we should learn from. He “saw that the wind was boisterous” (Matthew 14:30). In a moment of distraction, he took his eyes from Jesus, lost sight of his Savior, and began to concern himself with the surrounding tempest. Matthew tells us, then, that “he was afraid” (Matthew 14:30). Fear supplanted his faith...and sinking soon supplanted his walking.

No wonder the Bible contains 366 verses carrying the injunction, “Fear not.” We need the reminders.

July 16, 2017  
*Pete Water Walks*  
Jim Edwards



Jesus **dismisses** the Crowd.

Jesus did not neglect **his own need** to connect with the Father.

When Pete focused on **himself**, his troubles got the best of him; when he focused on Jesus, he **experienced** the **miraculous**.

Jesus takes care of us **immediately**.

