

I identify with Peter. Highs and lows. God uses such people.

Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33

I. Fear: A New Testament Example

A. Hysterical Fear (26)

- 1. Spooked by a Specter**
- 2. Scheme of Satan**
 - a) Unrealistic fears**

B. Heard the Master's Voice (27)

- 1. "Have courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."**
- 2. Heeded Jesus' message**
 - a) Not only did Peter no longer fear, he had courage**
 - b) We need to follow Peter's example**

C. Hoped in the Lord (28)

- 1. "Command me to come to you on the water"**
- 2. Confident expectation based upon the faithfulness of the Lord**
 - a) Call upon the Lord, seeking his call and command to do great things**

D. Headed Out in Faith (29)

- 1. Climbed out of the boat**
 - a) Left safety of the boat**
- 2. Walked on the water toward Jesus**
 - a) Walked on water**
 - (1) One of two people in all of history**
 - b) Toward Jesus**
 - (1) With his compass set and a clear goal**
 - (a) To be closer to Jesus**
 - (b) He didn't go running around**

E. Had Second Thoughts (30a)

- 1. "Saw the strength of the wind"**
 - a) Self-doubt, Self-preservation, Savior doubt**
- 2. Scheme of Satan**
 - a) Satan has lost us but he still wants to limit us**
 - b) Satan wants to keep us from doing great things for God's great glory and our edification and encouragement**
 - c) Satan seeks to undermine our hope and faith by reminding us of our limitations**
 - d) Satan doesn't want us to ever even consider getting out of the boat again**
- 3. Started to sink**
 - a) Satan doesn't want to douse our hope and faith, he wants to drown it**

F. Hollered for Salvation (30b)

- 1. Peter did the right thing**
 - a) He recognized where his salvation lay**
 - b) He called upon the Lord again**

G. Holy Hand took Hold (31)

- 1. Immediately**
 - a) Without hesitation**
 - b) Jesus covered the distance between them**
- 2. Impenetrable Grip**
 - a) Jesus took hold of Peter not the other way around**
 - b) It wasn't the hands of the other disciples but the hand of the omnipotent Lord**

H. Humans Worshiped God (33)

- 1. God was glorified**

2. **God's magnificence is revealed through us when we rely upon him**
 - a) **Even when our faith turns to fear and returns to faith**

One of the most interesting things about this event is where it isn't told. The Gospel of Mark is considered by most scholars to be Peter's gospel account. Yet, we don't find this event in Mark but in Matthew. I don't know why Peter didn't share this story. Maybe he was ashamed of how he was so courageous one minute and so cowardly the next. But here's what I do know. Peter's experience was like many that I have had. And I take great comfort from knowing that I'm not alone in having my faith turn to fear. More importantly, I take great confidence in the fact that when that transition takes place, the Lord is there to rescue me and help me return to a position of faith. All I can say is "Hallelujah! Thank you Lord for being faithful even in my fear." I too must humble myself and worship when the Lord intercedes and takes hold.

Don't let Satan rob you of the joy that comes from doing great things for the Lord. Don't fall for his scheme of hysterical fear. Don't let fear keep you from wave walking. And don't let falling from faith into fear prevent you from getting out of the boat again. We have a Savior who calls us out onto the water and even when we falter he's there to catch us.

Sink Satan's ship of fear by stepping out in faith. Again and again and again.