

**“Take Courage! Don’t Be Afraid.”**  
**Matthew 14: 25-31**

**Russell Cook**  
**West End Church of Christ**  
**Knoxville, TN**

1. We’ve all heard about the captain going down with the ship. Many Christians today and many churches are in danger of going down with the ship.

2. Peter serves as an example of finding faith during a storm. Please follow in your Bibles as we look at this story from **Matthew 14:22-33**.

3. The Narrative:

When you really think about it, the details of the story are fairly few, but very familiar. Jesus had just finished feeding 5,000 men--plus women and children.

The writer gives us a detail when he tells us that the disciples had gone half way across the lake and it was sometime after 3:00 a.m. The disciples looked up to see Jesus walking out on the water. Because of their superstition they thought he was a ghost. Jesus calmed their fears with the words, “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” Peter took courage and said, “Lord, if it’s you, tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” he said.

So Peter takes a step toward Jesus. But then he thinks to himself to be on the water in a storm like this is a dangerous position. He becomes afraid and begins to sink and cries out, “Lord, save me!”

Peter faltered, yes--but he once again looked to Jesus, saying, “Lord, save me!” And Jesus reaches out his hand and catches him. The final result was that they worshiped Jesus and said, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

**Lessons:**

**I. Facing Our Fears Is The Price Of Faith.**

- A Peter may have looked back on this occasion with much regret - Jesus had to rescue me, or with much delight - I actually walked on water.
- B We are called to a life that overcomes fear.
- C You might think that staying in the boat makes better sense.
  - 1. Remember **Numbers 13; Matt. 25; Rev. 21: 8**.
  - 2. Jesus is only asking you to follow his example.

**II. Our Crisis Provides Opportunities For Christ.**

- A Obedience to Christ often creates difficulty.
- B How does it feel to walk on water?

**III. Our Focus Is To Be One Of Faith.**

- A Peter boldly stepped out of the boat by faith and began to walk on the water to Jesus.
- B We cannot allow the storms of life to distract us from the One who calls us to himself.
- C What step would you take if you had more faith?
  - 1. God, grant me more faith to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2. How you end that statement is between you and God.