

On What are You Focusing?

Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus sent His disciples by boat to their next destination, while He stayed behind to pray. The wind was against them, so the disciples struggled to make progress. Sometime after 3 am, Jesus came to them walking on the water. They became _____. They feared the kinds of things we fear, like things getting _____. We fear things that don't _____ to us.

Jesus said something very important: "Have courage. It is I. (Literally, "____") Don't be afraid." Peter and the disciples heard something different than what we hear in Jesus' words, "I am." Those words were used by God in **Exodus 3:13-14** when He called Moses to go face Pharaoh. When Moses asked God His name, God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: '____ has sent me to you.'" When Peter heard Jesus' assertion that He was _____, that gave Peter the courage to ask, "Then, let me do what you are doing."

Notice what happened. When He was focused on Jesus—that Jesus was _____ in the _____, he walked on the water. When he looked at the natural circumstances around him, he lost his ability to rise above those circumstances and do what Jesus was doing.

This story is about having the courage to live life _____ and _____ God's kingdom when the winds of the world are blowing hard _____. When we keep our eyes on Jesus—that He is God the Son, we find the _____ we need to do the works He did. When we see the wind, we fear, and we _____.

_____?
Somehow you've got to stop looking at the _____!

This story encourages us to keep our focus on Jesus—on who _____ is, not on who our _____ are or what our _____ might be. Only then can we step out of our _____ boat, _____ with Him, _____ with Him, and live the life, _____ to Him, that He _____ us to live.