

WALKING ON WATER - TRUSTING GOD

After speaking to a crowd, Jesus sent the disciples off in a boat ahead of him while *“he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray.” In the evening, the boat got quite a distance away, “buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.”*

(Matthew 14:22-33)

During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said and cried out in fear.

But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

*“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”
“Come,” he said.*

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

John Ortberg, in his study, *“If you want to walk on water, you’ve got to get out of the boat,”* alludes to our journey in life being one that involves “fear and faith.”

Fear of failure is one reason many of us don’t step out of the boat. Some people view Peter’s walk on the water as a failure, but there were eleven bigger failures sitting in the boat.

- What is your “boat?” Where is fear or comfort keeping you from trusting God?
- How has God helped you conquer fear in the past?
- How can we learn to trust God more?

*I love you, God – you make me strong.
God is bedrock under my feet,
The castle in which I live... (Psalm 18:1 – MSG)*