



## Mighty in the Word

of the  
Lord  
Jesus Christ

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;  
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

The Wise Still Seek Him

Vol. XIV.07

## Walking on Water ?

Walking to Jesus – and on water! Imagine doing that! Sounds so spiritual, so wonderful, so peaceful – what more can one say! Let us look at Peter as he walks to Jesus on water. Jesus bids him come. Jesus is there for him. Peter takes that giant step of faith, and steps out of the boat and onto the water and – with no life jacket.

Then we read,

Peter begins sinking!

He cries out to Jesus to save him!

Have you ever been there? Stop and reflect for a moment and re-remember what that felt like. What was going on for you when you almost sank? Were you fearful? Did you cry out for Jesus to save you?

How many times have I asked for something only to find myself in the midst of the ocean sinking, after receiving it! What was the purpose of the Lord bidding Peter to come to Him in response to Peter's request? Why does the Lord call us to come up higher, to walk with Him in those places that *appear* to be such a wonderful experience and meant to draw us closer to the Lord – only to find ourselves sinking in the midst of them?

The text is specifically dealing with Peter though we can identify with him. He is impetuous, ready to jump into the water before thinking – or is that before praying. He *seems* always jumping into something – with his mouth especially. It has been said that Peter had the hoof and mouth disease – like so many of us. We open our mouth before engaging ourselves in prayer, seeking what the Lord Jesus wants in our lives.

The Lord Jesus, when in the Garden of Gethsemane, said to Peter (and James and John), "Watch and pray, lest ye enter into temptation." The Lord went back the second time and still found them sleeping. He asked, "Could you not pray for one hour?" Notice that the reason for praying was "lest ye enter into temptation." We are weak, and in our weakness we often move into areas of danger because we have not prayed, because we have not sought the will of the Lord, because we have taken our eyes off of Jesus.

Notice when Peter began sinking. The Bible says in Matthew 14.31 "But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me." When we take our eyes off of Jesus, we see the enemy, when the wind becomes

Oh, Peter called upon the Lord when he was sinking in the water. How many times have you and I almost lost our way, and thought we could do what we have not been called to do - only to find we have no strength but what we seek from the Lord.

There is a hymn that comes to mind, and oh how I am so aware of my need of the Lord: I Need Thee Every Hour

**I need Thee every hour, Most gracious Lord;  
No tender voice like Thine Can peace afford.**

**I need Thee every hour, Stay Thou near by;  
Temptations lose their power When Thou art nigh.**

**I need Thee every hour, In joy or pain;  
Come quickly and abide, Or life is vain.**

**I need Thee every hour, Most Holy One;  
O make me Thine indeed, Thou blessed Son.**

Chorus;

**I need Thee, O, I need Thee; Every hour I need Thee!  
O bless me now my Saviour, I come to Thee!**

Mrs. Annie S. Hawks  
Rev. Robert Lowry

Mrs. Bettie L. Lowery, M.R.E., Deaconess    The Rev. Mrs. Dr. C. S. Cole, Pastor, Ret.  
*Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ*

*Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).*

boisterous, we become fearful. When we take our eyes off of Jesus and place our attention upon the enemy, we will sink. We immediately cry out, Lord, save me. We need to "Turn *[our]* eyes upon Jesus, Look full into His wonderful face," and pray to Him seeking His forgiveness, and the strength to go on in Him – come what may.

Again, why does the Lord allow us to be in such a place that brings fear and causes us to take our eyes off of Him?

Perhaps the question is, Why are we not hearing what He tells us? Why are we walking in our own willful way, desiring to call upon Jesus as though He were a genie, and just rub the top of the lamp for Him to come out and say, What is your wish for today.

I believe the Lord is calling us to come up higher, that He is bidding us walk with Him in those *places* that seem so glorious – when that is our hearts cry. However, there are some prerequisites for the glorious life lived in Him that we have to walk through.

Nehemiah understood well what was going on when the “winds rose,” when the enemy came shouting threats - when he chose not to listen to him. Peter was learning that when the winds rise, and the enemy begins making noise, he must **not** take his eyes off Jesus. Peter must look unto the One who called him to walk on the water to Him.

We are living in volatile times, troublous times. It is easy for us to desire to seek refuge away from the possibilities that could take place in this nation at anytime. It is easy to look at circumstances all around us crying out to Jesus, Lord, save us – when we are not listening to His voice that calls us to come unto Him. He says,

Come unto me, all *[ye]* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.  
Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls (Mt 11:28, 29).

He says, in John’s Gospel (Jn 14:27), "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

Peter was distracted by the boisterous wind, and was afraid. Nehemiah on the other hand was fixed upon the Lord. Nehemiah knew the voice of the Lord, and was not caught off guard by the voice of the enemy – even if perhaps the enemy were a ventriloquist. Nehemiah could not be brought down.

Peter came to the place where he could not – after Pentecost. Peter spent a lot of time faltering, but Pentecost came! Peter was filled with the Holy Ghost and - after that could not be deterred. The bold statement that he made at the Passover, he now lived. He was willing to go to prison with the Lord and to die for Him.

Perhaps our prayer needs to be, for those of us who seem to have a “leak” in our souls, fill us to overflowing with Your Holy Spirit, Lord. Help us to return to our first love, You, Jesus. “Not by might, not by power, but by thy Spirit, saith the Lord.” How we need You, Jesus! Help us to abide in You and You in us that we shall not be deterred, that we shall not be distracted by the enemy, in any form or fashion. Help us Lord to walk with You daily, to be in Your Word daily, that we shall fall in love with you more deeply, and desire to walk with You on the *Via Dolorosa, The Way of The Cross* that leads home.

Peter's behavior was one of impetuous behavior. Read about Peter and ask yourself, do I have some of his traits? Remember he cut off the ear of Malchus (Jn 18:10). Remember at the Passover when Jesus said, " And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me" (Mt 26:21). The disciples asked, "Is it I?" (Mt 26:22; Mk 14:19) However, we hear Peter responding to the Lord in the Book of Luke.

And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired *[to have]* you, that he may sift *[you]* as wheat:  
But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.  
And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death (Lk 22:31-33).

The Lord then says to Peter (Lk 23:34),

And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.

Remember when Peter, James, and John were with the Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane and left them to pray while He, the Lord, went a little further to pray (Lk 22:41)? Jesus goes back to them, and they are fast asleep. The Lord says to them, "Pray that ye enter not into temptation." Again the Lord finds them sleeping and says unto them:

And said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation (Lk 22:46).

Often, we feel strong and able. We walk carelessly without the Sword of the Spirit with us as we journey in this world. We fail to realize how weak we are when confronted by the enemy who bids us take miniscule steps with him, telling us that we will not notice a difference walking with him, that all is well. He is the father of deceit, and we need to discern when the enemy comes to us, regardless through whom he comes, or whom he uses, to endeavor to lead us to take those small steps that seemingly are innocent – that we might not even go near the broad road that leads to destruction.

Let us heed the Word of the Lord to pray lest we fall into temptation. Pray that we might be strengthened in the Lord, and walk on the straight and narrow road that leads to eternity with the Lord. Oh, let us pray that we yield not to temptation for yielding is sin.

Peter learned to trust the Lord though he almost sank when walking on water. Peter did not back off from the Lord, but was drawn by the voice of the Lord in his heart to follow Jesus. Peter made many mistakes in his walk with the Lord. Yes, he was impetuous. He always thought himself to be strong – only to find he was so weak and misguided. He knew he was a sinner but he desired to walk with the Master, and he was strengthened. When Pentecost came, we find a changed Peter, one who was stepped out in faith, and willingly gave his life for the Lord, willingly laid down his life.

The words of the Lord to the disciples, "Pray that ye enter not into temptation" are words to all who love the Lord with their lives, who endeavor to walk the life of holiness unto the Lord.