

Introduction

1. Be free from doubt!
2. God has made the most important decision we ought to make crystal clear.
3. Peter was one of Jesus' most intimate companions.

I. The Context

1. We begin right after Jesus fed the five thousand ([Mt. 14:13-21](#)).
2. Immediately following this miracle, Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship to go before Him to the other side of the Sea of Galilee ([Mt. 14:22](#)).
 - a. constrained (*anankazo* G315 verb) “strongly urge/invite, urge upon, press” (BDAG 60).
3. Jesus sent the multitudes away and went up into a mountain to pray ([Mt. 14:23](#)).
 - a. Our prayers must be asked with total confidence in God ([Jm. 1:6-8](#)).
4. The ship which held the disciples was now in the middle of the violent sea ([Mt. 14:24](#)).
 - a. tossed (*basanizo* G928 verb) “Passively to be harassed, distressed” (Thayer 96).
 - b. contrary (*enantios* G1727 adjective) “pertaining to being opposite in terms of direction, opposite, against” (BDAG 331).
5. Jesus came walking on the sea in the fourth watch of the night ([Mt. 14:25](#)).
 - a. The fourth watch of the night would be between three and six a.m.
6. The disciples were terrified when they saw Jesus walking on the sea ([Mt. 14:26](#)).
 - a. they were troubled (*tarasso* G5015 verb) “to cause one inward commotion, take away his calmness of mind...to disquiet, make restless...to strike one's spirit with fear or dread” (Thayer 615).

II. The Courage

1. Immediately following the disciple's cry Jesus spoke to them and commanded courage ([Mt. 14:27](#)).
 - a. Be of good cheer (*tharseo* G2293 verb, imperative) “to be firm or resolute in the face of danger or adverse circumstances, be enheartened, be courageous” (BDAG 444).
 - b. it is I (*ego* G1473 pronoun *eimi* G1510 verb) is often translated as “I am” ([Jn. 8:24](#), [28](#), [58](#); [Ex. 3:14](#)).

2. Peter took courage and asked to come out to Jesus ([Mt. 14:28-29](#)).
 - a. We give Peter a hard time, but this is one of his finest moments.
 - b. There are many who will not come to Jesus though He invites them ([Mt. 11:28-30](#); cf. [Mt. 22:1-14](#)).

III. The Cry

1. Peter began to look at the conditions around him which resulted in him sinking and crying out to the Lord to save him ([Mt. 14:30](#)).
2. Fear was a factor but Jesus did not mention fear to Peter, but rather his little faith and his doubt ([Mt. 14:31](#)).
 - a. O thou of little faith (*oligopistos* G3640 adjective) “literally, ‘little of faith’ (*oligos*, ‘little,’ *pistis*, ‘faith’)” (Vine vol. 2 p. 223).
 - b. didst thou doubt (*distazo* G1365 verb) “‘to stand in two ways’ (*dis*, ‘double,’ *stasis*, ‘a standing’), implying ‘uncertainty which way to take’” (Vine vol. 2, p. 180).

IV. The Christ

1. Once Peter and Jesus came into the ship the wind ceased ([Mt. 14:32](#)).
 - a. There was calm with Jesus near.
 - b. Jesus showed His power over the elements as He had done before (cf. [Mt. 8:23-27](#)).
 - c. To be near to Jesus I must follow Him every day ([Lk. 9:23](#)).
2. What Jesus had done proved to those in the ship His Deity ([Mt. 14:33](#)).

Conclusion

1. God has made the most important decision we ought to make crystal clear.
 - a. He has placed all spiritual blessings in one location: Christ ([Eph. 1:3](#)).
 - b. Jesus is the only approach to the Father ([Jn. 14:6](#)).
 - c. Jesus is only going to save His body, the church ([Eph. 5:23](#)).
 - d. Salvation then is only in God’s Son, Jesus Christ.
2. God cannot lie and He has promised eternal life to all those that obey His Son ([Heb. 5:8-9](#), [6:18-20](#); [Tt. 1:2](#)).
 - a. Why doubt the faithful God ([Dt. 7:9](#))?
3. Peter told of “an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you” in [1 Peter 1:4](#).
 - a. That same Peter that I spoke about today said there is a reservation in Heaven for you but you must be born again ([1 Pt. 1:3](#), [22-25](#)).