

## **Jesus Gives Us Courage**

Cornerstone Community Church – Pastor Jerry Ernst  
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### **Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33**

Fear is the opposite of trusting God. Worry produces fear, fear produces bondage, and bondage prevents people from experiencing God's best in their lives.

**FEAR:** (Webster's dictionary) *"an unpleasant emotion caused by anticipation or awareness of danger; anxious concern; reason for alarm."*

### **What fear does to people and Churches?**

- ...Cripples people.
- ...Stops progress (in God's mission)
- ...Prevents new possibilities.
- ...Poisons spiritual growth.

### **Fear can hold people ...**

- **Hostage** - Locked into past-memories.
- **from developing God-given talents**
- **from trying new things**
- **from knowing people**
- **from getting places** (Peter going across the lake)
- **from spiritual commitments**

### **Peter had COURAGE:** (Matthew 14:28-30)

- More faith than the other eleven disciples. (He got out of the boat)
- Peter experienced – "water walking."
- Peter was willing to try the "Him-possible."

**COURAGE:** *"mental or moral strength to venture, persevere - withstand difficulty, danger and fear."*

**Matthew 14:27** *"(27) ...Jesus spoke to them saying, 'Be of good cheer! It is I; **Do not be afraid.**'"*

**AFRAID:** (Gk: *phobeó*): *"to fear, to terrify, withdraw from (flee), avoid."*

### **What Peter did RIGHT? (Vv. 25-29)**

- 1) **Peter TESTED Jesus** *"(28) 'Lord, if it is you,' Peter replied, 'tell me to come to you on the water.'"*
- 2) **Peter TRUSTED Jesus** *"(29) 'Come,' he said, 'Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.'"*
- 3) **Peter kept his EYES ON Jesus** *"(29) ...walked on the water and came toward Jesus."*

### **What Peter did WRONG? (Vv. 30-33)**

- 1) **His eyes wandered OFF Jesus** *"(30) But when he saw the wind, he was afraid..."*
- 2) **FEAR entered his mind** *"(30) ...and, beginning to sink, cried out, 'Lord, save me!'"*
- 3) **He thought APART from Jesus – not with Jesus** *"(31) Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. 'You of little faith,' he said, 'why did you doubt?'"*

**This story teaches us...**

- Our “eyes” can quickly be taken off Jesus.
- Christians can let “natural fears” instill fear into our faith.
- Christians can have a “faith failure” when our eyes are off Jesus.

***“Fear is easier than faith – because fear controls the outcome called familiarity – however dysfunctional it may be.”*** (Pastor Jerry Ernst)

**Life Application questions?**

- 1) What are you afraid to face in your life?
- 2) What is Jesus prompting you to step out into, by faith?

**Deuteronomy 31:6** – *“(6) Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”*