

“As He Began To Sink....”

Lesson Text: **Matthew 14:28-30 (CEB).**

I. The Scene- Vs. 22-27.

- *“Immediately”* After Feeding The 5,000 In **14:14-21**, He Sends The Disciples On Ahead To Go To The Other Side By Boat. Jesus Goes Up On The Mountain To Pray. The Disciples Encounter A Great Storm. Jesus Walks On The Water At Night. The Disciples Believe Jesus Is A “Ghost!” Jesus Speaks To Them, And Says, *“Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.”*

II. Some Factors That Caused Peter To Sink.

- **Not The Difficulty Of The Task- Vs. 29.**
 - By This Time, Peter Had Seen Jesus Do Many Miracles.
 - **Luke 5:4-8; Luke 5:13; 7:13-15;** and the Feeding Of The 5,000!
 - Peter Realized By His Time With Jesus— Jesus Had The Power To Grant Him The Power To Walk On Water Too.
 - **Matthew 19:26.**
- **Not A Lack Of Interest Or Effort- Vs. 28-29.**
 - Despite The Fact That Men Cannot Walk On Water— Peter Asked The Lord...
 - It Is An Interesting Fact To Note: None Of The Other Disciples Asked To Do The Same!
 - Sometimes Peter Is Called “Impetuous Peter” For Such Actions As This One.
 - For Being The First To Act Or Speak On certain Occasions- **Matthew 16:22; 17:4.**
- **Not Presumption- Vs. 28.**
 - Some Might Be Tempted To Make This Charge Against Peter— But Not So!
 - Jesus Often Commended Those Who Showed Great Faith- **Matthew 8:10; 9:2.**
 - Peter’s Faith Is What Led Him To Ask Jesus!
- **But Rather, Peter Saw The Wind And The Waves! Vs. 30.**
 - He Shifted His Focus To The Wind & The Waves
 - The “Boisterous Waves” (**NKJB**) Became Bigger To Him Than Jesus.
- **He Took His Eyes Off Jesus- Vs. 30.**
 - Peter Should Have Kept Looking At Jesus And Remember Who Jesus Is!
 - He Should Have Realized Jesus Would Keep Him Safe! **Matthew 8:23-27.**
- **And Peter’s Faith Became Little & Doubtful- Vs. 31.**
 - Fear and Doubt Are The Opposite Of Faith. **Matthew 21:21; James 1:6.**
 - How Satan Attacks Our Faith! **Ephesians 6:16.**

III. What Keeps Our Faith From Sinking Today?

1. Stay Close To Jesus! How? By Focusing On Him! **2 Corinthians 3:18.**
2. Do What Builds Up Our Faith. **Matthew 17:19-21.** Faith Can Grow!
3. Never Take Our Eyes Off Jesus! **Hebrews 12:1-2.**