

That Sinking Feeling

Life can often feel like we are caught in a storm, holding on and hoping someone will rescue us. The story of Jesus walking on the water in Matthew's Gospel reminds us that God is with us during those difficult times and teaches us how to respond when life becomes overwhelming. When the disciples crossed the lake, a storm arose, and in the early hours of the morning Jesus came to them, walking on the water. Terrified, they thought they were seeing a ghost, but Jesus reassured them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." Peter asked to come to Jesus across the water. At first, he succeeded, but when he took his eyes off Jesus and focused on the wind and waves, fear overwhelmed him and he began to sink. Crying out, "Lord, save me!" Peter was immediately rescued as Jesus reached out His hand and lifted him up.

This story teaches several important lessons. First, following Jesus does not mean life will always be easy. The disciples were obeying Jesus when they encountered the storm. Likewise, Christians should not expect a trouble-free life. Jesus Himself said, *"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* John 16:33

Second, Jesus never abandons us in our struggles. Just as He came to His frightened disciples, He comes to us with His presence, strength, and peace. God promises, *"Fear not, for I am with you."* Isaiah 41:10

Third, when we focus more on our problems than on Jesus, fear can overwhelm us.

Finally, Peter's failure did not end his relationship with Jesus. Although his faith faltered and he later denied knowing Jesus, he repented and was forgiven. God restored him and used him powerfully in the early Church. The same grace is available to us. When we fail, we are invited to turn back to God, receive His forgiveness, and continue walking with Him.