

During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" Matthew 14:25-31 (NIV)

Steps Of Faith

Those are not easy steps. **What are not easy steps?** Taking steps of faith are not easy. **Why is that?** If they were easy, they would not be called steps of faith. If they were easy, they might be called my next best steps. But that is not what they are called. Taking a step of faith will cause me to leave the comfortable to do the uncomfortable. Taking a step of faith will often require me to leave the known for the unknown. A step of faith will most likely ask me to do what I cannot possibly do without your help. A step of faith will almost always cause me to face my fears. **What fears?** Fears come in all different shapes and sizes. The most obvious fear is the fear of failure. **That fear is no stranger to you.** Yes, I have had to battle a fear of failure nearly my entire life. **What would be a bigger failure? Would taking a step that ended in failure be a bigger failure than never taking a step of faith?** No, certainly not. Never taking a step of faith would be the biggest failure of all. **That's true. That's right. That is certain.**

Let me ask you some questions? I'm listening. **When have you ended up failing because you took a step of faith with me?** A failure doesn't readily come to my mind. **You have had setbacks. You have had disappointments. Sometimes, things did not go as planned. Sometimes, you have had to retrace your steps. Sometimes, you have had to try again. Sometimes, you have even had to start over.** All of what you say is certainly true. **Were any of these failures?** No, I guess not. **Why is that?** I never gave up. I never quit. Most importantly, you never gave up or quit on me. **No, I have not, nor will I ever give up or quit on you.** You have always been with me when it has been time for me to take a step of faith. If I have had a setback, disappointment or something didn't go as planned, you have always kept me moving forward with you. **Yes, I have always and will always be with you to help you to take steps of faith and keep you moving forward with me. You have nothing to fear as you keep on following me.** Thank you, Lord. I will keep on taking steps of faith with you. **That will be very good.**

Lord, I know you want me to get out of the boat. You want me to stop playing it so safe. You want me to take steps of faith so I can go and do what you ask of me. With your help, that is what I will do. Help me to overcome fear and take steps of faith with you. Amen

Becoming Like Christ *Out Of The Boat*

During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

NIV Matthew 14:25-31

Becoming Like Christ *Over The Side*

About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!" But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!" Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water." "Yes, come," Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted. Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?"

NLT Matthew 14:25-31

Becoming Like Christ *Out Of The Boat*

And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

NRSV Matthew 14:25-31

Becoming Like Christ *Out Of The Boat*

And in the fourth watch [between 3:00—6:00 a.m.] of the night, Jesus came to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified and said, It is a ghost! And they screamed out with fright. But instantly He spoke to them, saying, Take courage! I AM! Stop being afraid! And Peter answered Him, Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water. He said, Come! So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water, and he came toward Jesus. But when he perceived *and* felt the strong wind, he was frightened, and as he began to sink, he cried out, Lord, save me [from death!] Instantly Jesus reached out His hand and caught *and* held him, saying to him, O you of little faith, why did you doubt?

AMP Matthew 14:25-31

Becoming Like Christ *Out Of The Boat*

And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and *said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

NASB Matthew 14:25-31

Becoming Like Christ *Out Of The Boat*

And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

ESV Matthew 14:25-31

Becoming Like Christ *Out Of The Boat*

Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out *His* hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

NKJV Matthew 14:25-31

Becoming Like Christ *Out Of The Boat*

At about four o'clock in the morning, Jesus came toward them walking on the water. They were scared out of their wits. "A ghost!" they said, crying out in terror. But Jesus was quick to comfort them. "Courage, it's me. Don't be afraid." Peter, suddenly bold, said, "Master, if it's really you, call me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come ahead." Jumping out of the boat, Peter walked on the water to Jesus. But when he looked down at the waves churning beneath his feet, he lost his nerve and started to sink. He cried, "Master, save me!" Jesus didn't hesitate. He reached down and grabbed his hand. Then he said, "Faint-heart, what got into you?"

MSG Matthew 14:25-31

Becoming Like Christ *Over The Side*

About four o'clock in the morning Jesus came to them, walking on the water! They screamed in terror, for they thought he was a ghost. But Jesus immediately spoke to them, reassuring them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. Then Peter called to him: "Sir, if it is really you, tell me to come over to you, walking on the water." "All right," the Lord said, "come along!" So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he looked around at the high waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted. Instantly Jesus reached out his hand and rescued him. "O man of little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?" And when they had climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped.

TLB Matthew 14:25-31

Becoming Like Christ *Left The Boat*

Between three and six o'clock in the morning, Jesus came to them, walking on the water. When his followers saw him walking on the water, they were afraid. They said, "It's a ghost!" and cried out in fear. But Jesus quickly spoke to them, "Have courage! It is I. Do not be afraid." Peter said, "Lord, if it is really you, then command me to come to you on the water." Jesus said, "Come." And Peter left the boat and walked on the water to Jesus. But when Peter saw the wind and the waves, he became afraid and began to sink. He shouted, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught Peter. Jesus said, "Your faith is small. Why did you doubt?"

NCV Matthew 14:25-31

Out Of The Boat

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Becoming Like Christ – Matthew 14:25-31

In Context: *Read Matthew 14*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

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Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

During the fourth watch | of the night | Jesus went out to them, | walking on the lake. | When the disciples saw him | walking on the lake, | they were terrified. | "It's a ghost," | they said, and cried out in fear. | But Jesus | immediately said to them: | "Take courage! | It is I. | Don't be afraid." | "Lord, if it's you," | Peter replied, | "tell me | to come to you | on the water." | "Come," he said. | Then Peter got down out of the boat, | walked on the water | and came toward Jesus. | But when he saw | the wind, | he was afraid | and, | beginning to sink, | cried out, | "Lord, save me!" | Immediately Jesus reached out | his hand | and | caught him. | "You of little faith," | he said, | "why did you doubt?" Matthew 14:25-31 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I know you want me to get out of the boat. You want me to stop playing it so safe. You want me to take steps of faith so I can go and do what you ask of me. With your help, that is what I will do. Help me to overcome fear and take steps of faith with you. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

What is the largest step of faith you have ever taken with the Lord?

Why will going and doing what the Lord asks of you always require steps of faith?

How has your faith grown stronger as you have taken steps of faith with the Lord?

When has some fearful circumstance temporarily caused you to stop taking steps of faith with the Lord?

How has the Lord helped you to overcome fear so you could continue taking steps of faith with Him?

How have you been learning to rely on the Lord as you take steps of faith with Him?

What step of faith do you need to take right now to go and do what the Lord asks of you?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Take steps of faith to go and do what the Lord asks of you.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will help you to take steps of faith with Him.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how you are taking steps of faith with the Lord.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you step out in faith to go and do what the Lord asks of you.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will step out in faith to go and do what you ask of me.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I step out in faith to go and do what you ask of me today?
