



Being with Jesus:

A Devotional From the Book of Mark

Week 3
Blind Faith

Day 5

Scripture

“4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.” 5 Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.” 6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. 7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.”

— Luke 5:4-7

“22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. [...] 25 Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear. 27 But Jesus immediately said to them: ‘Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.’

28 ‘Lord, if it’s you,’ Peter replied, ‘tell me to come to you on the water.’ 29 ‘Come,’ he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, ‘Lord, save me!’ 31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. ‘You of little faith,’ he said, ‘why did you doubt?’”

— Matthew 14:22, 25-31

Reflection

These two stories show Jesus coming through for people when they had failed. In the first story, the men had been fishing all night and caught nothing. Jesus told them to put their net out again. They were probably tired. They had already tried so many times and got nothing. It was probably a labor intensive process to put the nets out. But, in faith, they put the nets out again and brought in a huge catch.

In the second story, Jesus is walking on the water and tells Peter to come out to Him. At first, Peter goes out on the water and is doing great. Then, he gets distracted by the storm, stops looking at Jesus, and begins to sink. He loses faith, but Jesus reaches down and saves him.

Sometimes in our walk with God, we fail. There are some habits or faults we have that seem too strong to overcome. In these situations, Jesus can offer us strength to try one more time in faith and can catch us if we fall. Often times, if we want to see God work, we have to throw the nets out one more time and try again like the fisherman. If we want to walk on water, we have to step out of the boat in faith and leave our comfort zones. God is there to catch us if we fall.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for working through ordinary people who step out in faith to do what you ask them to do. Help me to keep trying even if I fail so many times. Use Your power in my life to help me. Help me to step out in faith and trust that you will catch me if I fall. Amen

Questions

Have you ever felt like giving up on your spiritual walk with God?

Has there been anything you tried to do over and over and failed?

Have you ever stepped out in faith and seen God do something amazing?