



Stepping Outside The Boat

Sermon by Ray Reynolds (1-3-10 - AM)

Text: Matthew 14:22-33

Introduction: Most of us have read this story time and time again. Have you ever noticed how much fear is in this text (vs.26, 27, 30)? Matthew singles out one individual who needed more faith, Peter. Peter is one of those guys that sometimes we like and sometimes we don't like. We like him because we can connect with him. We don't like him because his character is so real that we often find ourselves in his shoes. Peter teaches us in this story how to step out on faith. Let's take a good look at the text . . .

Discussion:

- I. Peter Took A Bold Stance (vs.22-28)
 - A. Don't be afraid to take a risk (Sometimes you have to take a chance).
 - B. Don't be afraid to stand up (When everyone stands around, somebody has to stand up!).
 - C. Don't be afraid to speak up (If you're not going to stand up, then shut up!).
 - D. Don't be afraid to do the right thing, even if you're alone.

- II. Peter Gave A Quick Glance (vs.29-30)
 - A. Don't get distracted when you hear the wind.
 - B. Don't get distracted when you see the waves.
 - C. Don't get distracted when you are caught in the storm.
 - D. Don't get distracted when you start sinking.

- III. Peter Needed A Second Chance (vs.30-31)
 - A. Don't hesitate to cry out.
 - B. Don't hesitate to cry out to God.
 - C. Don't hesitate to cry out to God to save you.
 - D. Don't hesitate to cry out to God to save you if you feel alone.

- IV. Peter Found A Swift Deliverance (vs.32-33)
 - A. Don't forget to take the Lord's hand.
 - B. Don't forget that the Lord comes to our rescue.
 - C. Don't forget that the Lord understands the weak in faith.
 - D. Don't forget that the Lord deserves our praise.

Conclusion: With all these "don'ts" remember what you need to "do." Remember that Peter was bold when he needed to be bold. Peter was bold enough to confess Jesus and he received the keys to the kingdom. If we will confess Jesus, keep our eyes focused on Him, and follow Him wherever He leads, we will see amazing things happen. Its time to step outside the boat! Take His hand!

WORD OF THE DAY = "FAITH"