

Stepping Out of the Boat

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 14:29-31)

Have you ever been in a storm in the middle of the ocean? It must be absolutely terrifying! Pastor Brad Cusson tells the story of when he was standing on the breakwater (big rocks that jut out into the water) at Dana Point in Southern California during a storm. As they were standing there a freakishly large wave crashed against the rocks, drenching them and almost pulling them into the water—and what would have been certain death.

After hearing stories like this, it never ceases to amaze me that Peter actually got out of the boat in the middle of a storm, believing that he could walk on the water! I mean this was real water and a real, violent, storm, on a real lake—and Peter had a real life that he could really lose! How could he do this? You know the answer. He kept his eyes on Jesus—and Jesus beckoned him “to come.” Oh, I know, when Peter looked away and became frightened of the wind and waves, he soon began to sink. But in Peter’s weakness, Jesus came to the rescue and saved him...I believe, so that he could walk on the water again, albeit in a different way, different place, and different time.

I believe that here, at the beginning of our ministry expansion stewardship campaign, Jesus is inviting us to step out of the safety of the boat and onto the water to grow by faith in our lives of stewardship. The vision before us is not furnishing a church building or even growing our ministry, though these are wonderful, worthy, and needed goals. No, rather, the vision is that through this emphasis there might be a **“FULLER HEAVEN,”** and God might have His way with each of us in our lives of stewardship.

Do you see the “storm” into which we are stepping—those things that we immediately begin to fear when we talk about our lives of stewardship, even though we have nothing to fear? Oh, the wind and the waves are real—a really bad economy, bills to pay, families to take care of, emergencies to prepare for, retirement to consider—yet Jesus is bidding each of us to perhaps go where we have never gone before in our lives of stewardship. It may well be scary and frightening. Yet, our Savior says “come.”

And we can trust Him.

Prayer: Dear Father in heaven, send me Your Holy Spirit in extra measure, I pray, that I may be empowered by faith and trust in You to “step out of the boat” in my stewardship life. In the next few weeks, through Your Word and by the power of Your Holy Spirit, work in me and in each of my brothers and sisters in Christ at church Your good and perfect will. I pray in the name of Jesus who gave up His life for me that I might live in Him every day and forever. Amen!