

HELP..!!!

(Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33)

INTRODUCTION:

Many times we have heard people say: “If I had to die I would rather die drowning.”

Maybe drowning is not so bad a way to die as others, but I have read of a person who was almost drowned.

He said it was the most horrible thing: the lack of air, lungs seeming to burst, choking, then panic sets in.

We just could imagine how Peter must have felt when he started sinking.

How much worse though to see men and women being choked by the waters of the sea of sin: the fighting for life, the struggle, and the panic.

Let us analyze Peter’s predicament and how he was saved from sinking.

I. PETER’S TEMPERAMENT PUT HIM IN DANGER.

Peter was an impulsive person.

He was one that had spontaneous action. (acting without thinking)

He would just burst into things.

A. He rushed into the tomb. John 20:3.

B. He drew his sword in Gethsemane. John 18:10.

C. Then here again when he saw Jesus walking on the water.
Matthew 14:28.

II. PETER BEGAN TO SINK WHEN HE LOOKED THE WRONG WAY.

A. He looked at the boisterous or strong wind, when he should have kept his eyes on the Lord.

His fear overpowered his faith, and he began to sink rapidly.

When he lost his focus on Jesus, and focused on the environment, he lost faith in the power of Jesus to sustain him on the water.

B. Too many of us also take our eyes off the Lord and we begin to sink.

We look at other things, which seem to be more important.

What causes us to sink?

- worry
- anxiety
- doubt
- lack of faith

(just to name a few)

C. Other examples who looked the wrong way.

Eve, Gen. 3:6; Lot's wife, Gen. 19:17, 26.

D. When Peter took his eyes off Jesus, his faith began to waver and started sinking.

It is important to remember Hebrews 12:2

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

III. PETER BEGAN TO SINK AFTER BEING LOYAL TO JESUS.

A. Peter had been loyal and sincere, and loved the Lord.

B. But his faith began to weakened. Matt. 14:31.

He began doubting.

For lack of faith, Peter failed to continue walking on the water.

C. Many have gone down after being a loyal Christian.
Demas, 2 Tim. 4:10. (having loved this present world)

IV. PETER ASKED THE LORD TO SAVE HIM.

A. He did not call the other apostles.
They could not save him.

B. He recognized the Lord's power to save.

In the midst of stormy trials, all men should reach out for the hand of Jesus.

Man's inability to cope with the turmoil of his environment allows God the opportunity to stretch out His helping hand.

Now what men need to do is accept the out-stretch hand of God.

CONCLUSION:

Friends, won't you recognize your condition and the power of Jesus to save you.

If you are not a Christian, the hand of Jesus is extended to help you out of the sea of sin, which is choking the life out of you.

If you are a Christian and once walked with Jesus but now are beginning to sink, take hold of Jesus again and be pulled to safety.