



## Matthew 14:22-33

<sup>22</sup> Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. <sup>23</sup> And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup> but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. <sup>25</sup> And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. <sup>26</sup> But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup> But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

<sup>28</sup> Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." <sup>29</sup> He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" <sup>31</sup> Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" <sup>32</sup> When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. <sup>33</sup> And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

### QUESTION 1:

*One thing to notice about our reading for today is that we are given an image here of Jesus maintaining a life of prayer. In this case, we are shown that Jesus prays **before** the storm, indicating that prayer helps us be firm in our faith when the storm hits, as Jesus is not praying in the middle of the storm.*

What would prayer look like to you if you centered yourself in prayer in advance rather than praying during a proverbial storm?

Would it change your perspective on things? (Please do not interpret this as you shouldn't pray during a storm-I think all prayer, no matter what stage we are in, is fine, before, during, and after-after all, prayer looks different to different people and is contextual to your experience).

### QUESTION 2:

Being in a relationship of faith always involves certain risks. Peter steps out onto the water and starts walking, but then he gets distracted, fearful, and loses his faith.

As a follower of Christ, what risks have you faced?

How does focusing on Christ help us not be distracted by our fears?

ANSWERS