

Focus passage: Matthew 14:22-36

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. **23** After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, **24** and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

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?"

32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. **33** Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

34 When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret. **35** And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to him **36** and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

What stands out to you from this passage?

Why do you think Jesus had to dismiss the crowds? Why do you think he often left the disciples to be by himself?

Do we value our own time to be alone? When we do have time to be alone, how are we eager to use it? What does Jesus do?

*To see a portion of one of Jesus' prayers, read **John 17:13-26**. What does he pray for?*

Peter, always quick to act, calls out to Jesus, "Tell me to come..." What is admirable about Peter's role in this passage? What mistakes does he make?

*We are to keep our sight firmly fixed on Christ, for when Peter turns away, he sinks. Read and discuss **Colossians 3:1-4** and **Hebrews 12:1-3** for encouragements to do just that.*

How can you apply this Scripture to your life?

