

## Between Glory and Terror

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### Questions for discussion and application

- Read Matthew 14:22-32. Describe what's happening. What stands out to you?
- What did Jesus do after he sent the disciples ahead of him? What does this tell you about his priorities?
- What will it require for you to find uninterrupted time in prayer?
- The disciples had been battling a storm all night. What were they afraid of?
- In verse 27 Jesus identifies himself saying, "It is I" and tells the disciples to "take courage" "do not be afraid." Does this remind you of other times God identified himself in Scripture? Why do you think Jesus speaks this way to the disciples?
- Is Peter's request found in verse 28 impulsive (even reckless) or is it something else?
- After Peter stepped out of the boat he found himself "*between glory and terror.*" What does that mean? Can you share a time you felt suspended between faith and fear? Between Jesus and circumstances that overshadowed everything else?
- How is this story a picture of the Christian experience?
- In verse 30 Peter doesn't "surrender to unbelief." What does he do instead? What does that teach you?
- We will be tempted to take our eyes off Jesus and place them on what feels like legitimate fears and threatening circumstances. How does Hebrews 12:1-3 speak to that / encourage us?

The day actually begins in Matthew 14:13

## 1. Jesus alone - stays behind to pray

(Matthew 14:22-23)

PRAYER = relationship and dependency. The place Jesus found strength and renewal. A place of faith and rest.

## 2. The disciples together - in a storm afraid (Matthew 14:24-27)

Fourth watch = 3-6AM

**V27** "*Take courage, it is I, don't be afraid*"

*“It is I” - “an echo of the divine name”*

- Exodus 3:14 *“I am who I am”*
- Isaiah 43:10-13

### 3. Peter alone - cries out to be saved

(Matthew 14:28-31)

Peter yells into the storm at this ghostly figure, he speaks into the chaos and darkness directly towards his fears.

**Verse 29** is on another level!

Peter's doubt was not unbelief. Not completely.

The idea behind doubt is to be divided in two; to waiver, have second thoughts, hesitate.

Os Guinness: *“To be in doubt is to be in two minds, to be caught between two worlds, to be suspended between a desire to affirm and a desire to negate.”*

**Hebrews 12:1-3**

### 4. The disciples together - worship Jesus by faith (Matthew 14:32)

By this time the disciples have seen enough to lead them to a faith filled confession.

Will we move forward with courage?  
Will we remember Jesus is with us? Will that be enough?  
Will we bring our fears to him?  
Will we properly measure our fears against Jesus' promises?