2026-10-25 Summary

What does it really mean to be present? We can show up, take a seat, and still be a thousand miles away. This message digs into one of the most familiar stories in the Gospels, the account of Jesus walking on water in Matthew 14, and uncovers layers we often rush past on our way to the headline moment. Yes, Peter stepped out of the boat. Yes, he sank. But what if the greater tragedy was not the sinking, but the missed opportunity? What if fear robbed him, and us, of something far richer than survival? The storm was real, the wind was fierce, and the disciples were straining at the oars. Yet standing right in front of them was the Son of God, walking as casually as if the lake were dry ground. The question the passage presses into us is not whether we believe Jesus is powerful. Most of us would say we do. The question is whether our faith is alive enough, active enough, and growing enough to actually change how we live when the waves get high. Peter's own later writing in 2 Peter 1 gives us a striking clue, urging us to make every effort to add to our faith. Faith, it turns out, is not a destination. It is a direction. And the direction is always toward Christ, not toward the storm.