

Unshakeable: Finding Stability in an Unstable World Part 2

UNSHAKEABLE FAITH

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. Matthew 14:22-24 NIV

Faith Doesn't Keep You Out of Storms

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. Matthew 14:25-29 NIV

Faith Focuses on Jesus, Not the Storm

But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Matthew 14:30 NIV

Faith Falters When It Shifts Focus

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." Matthew 14:31-33 NIV

Faith Is Sustained by Jesus

TALK IT OVER

RECAP

In Matthew 14:22–33, we see that faith doesn't keep us from life's storms, but it does change how we walk through them. Peter experienced the impossible when his eyes were fixed on Jesus, but he began to sink when his focus shifted to the wind and waves. Even then, Jesus immediately reached out and rescued him. Our faith is not sustained by our own strength but by the One who never lets us go.

DISCUSSION

1. The disciples found themselves in a storm while doing exactly what Jesus had told them to do. How does that challenge the idea that following Jesus should always lead to an easier life?
2. What "winds and waves" are most likely to distract you from keeping your eyes on Jesus, and how can you intentionally refocus your faith?
3. Peter cried out, "Lord, save me!" and Jesus immediately reached out to him. What does this teach you about Jesus' response when your faith feels weak or you find yourself struggling?