



TRUSTING THE LORD

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MATTHEW 14:27-28

This comes from the classic story from Matthew’s gospel of Peter walking on the water. Actually, Peter sinking in the water is probably a better description of what actually happened, but you get the picture.

As I’ve thought about ways that the Lord would be calling me this Advent season to “prepare him room” by letting go of what’s holding me back, one of the key themes that keeps coming back time and again is the idea of trust; trusting that Jesus was who he said he was and resting on his promises.

If you really pressed me on why this is hard, I’d land on the vulnerable reality that I simply lack trust in those moments to accept that when Jesus calls me into the waters of the future or the unknown, he’s already there. That’s exactly the picture we see in the verses above.

So often, Christ would tell me to “take courage” and “don’t be afraid.” It’s the risen and reigning Lord that’s calling. So often, I’ll follow that command for courage with a qualification or condition. “If it really is you, tell me to do ____.”

So often, he’ll answer not with words of condemnation, but with a kind and gentle affirmation, “Come.”

And so often, my feet will begin to sink into the water because I lack the trust in him and his promises to know that where he

calls his people, there he already is himself. And where he is there is peace and freedom (Phil 4:7; 2 Cor 3:17).

You see, there is no place that we can go to escape his presence (Psalm 139). Peter wasn’t going to outrun him on those waves! Yet, how often do we struggle to believe that as he invites us to step with faith into our own futures, it’s not because he wants to somehow learn about what that is going to look like as we do, it’s because he’s already there. He is there and is beckoning us as a beloved father calls out to his children to come and join him in the work he’s prepared beforehand (Eph 2:10).

Peter’s failure—and so often our own—is just as much a lack of trust in the Lord as it is a fear of what he’d be calling us to. At least for me, it’s not the waves that get me. It’s that I need to know for sure that Christ will be there with me. So, this Advent season let’s explore together what it would look like to hear the Savior say, “come,” and to follow him with our eyes fixed on him, the founder and perfecter of our faith (Heb 12:2).



PRAYER

Lord, as you call us out to the waters of the unknown, would you grant us the faith to walk unafraid? To trust you for all that you’ve proven, time and again, that you are? You are the Lord, and we seek this season to follow you as your children with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength. Cause courage in us until our faith is made sight. Amen.



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