

Have you ever gotten an opportunity to which you said yes—jumping in with both feet
Acting boldly and stepping out in faith or maybe in blind assumption that it will be ok
Then looked around and recognize where you are and gotten nervous
Maybe it is a little thing... such as wandering down the wrong path
Maybe it is a big thing...
New job—moving across country—entrepreneur—big investment—education
Whatever it is—you looked at where you are, looked reality in the face and got nervous
Maybe you hung in there and it got better... or maybe it got worse
Maybe you panicked
Whatever we've done—I want to talk about that moment when we face reality

Matthew 14:22-33 – story of Peter walking on the water

The disciples had been hanging with Jesus for some time so they aren't new to all of this
They had seen healings and miracles
Jesus had calmed a storm on the Sea of Galilee before
The disciples were sent out among the people with instructions and authority to...
"Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons." Matthew 10:8
Immediately before this story—they passed out baskets of food blessed by Jesus
They only began with 5 loaves and 2 fish—but ended with 12 baskets full left over

Now the disciples are in a boat while Jesus goes off to pray
The wind came up and the boat was battered by waves
As experienced fishermen they knew what to do
Then they see something looking like a ghost walk towards them
Jesus says, *"Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."*
At that Peter asks to walk to Jesus who responds by saying, *"Come."*
He got out of the boat and walks towards Jesus
Then he notices what he is doing and becomes afraid and he starts to sink
Jesus took him by the hand, pulling him up, saying,
"You of little faith, why did you doubt?"
Complete Jewish Bible: "Such little trust! Why did you doubt?"
They walked to the boat together and got in as the wind calmed down

I want to talk about the *"You of little faith/trust, why did you doubt?"*

Truth is I've always felt a little beat up by this verse
I felt like it was my job to keep my eyes on Jesus 100% of the time
When I looked at reality, it was because I took my eyes off Jesus and had no faith
But the truth is—I couldn't maintain that 100% faith—so I felt like a failure
25 years ago I saw a reality in my situation and got nervous
Moved—new entrepreneurial job—new city—no close community—huge opportunity
But... it was a slow work in progress and too little momentum—I was nervous!
At that point, I read this story in Matthew and thought about it
Jesus didn't say, why did you take your eyes off me—you failed
In my words, I heard Jesus say something like...
*"This is hard. I understand that. But I'm with you and will help.
I'm not leaving and no matter what happens we'll do it together.
Don't ever doubt that I'm in this with you, 100%.
Don't ever doubt that I will pick you up when you falter."*

Jesus is way more understanding of our situations than we give him credit for
One of the things I learned from Brennan Manning—they are reading in Mtg for Learning
At the same time, Jesus invites us to participate in this radical trust
To know that when we face these situations we can put our trust in Jesus
Who will always be there—through thick and thin—good times and bad
Who loves us deeply and is faithful
Who wants the very best for us

This crazy idea that as Christians, we're not supposed to ever be afraid isn't the truth
We are insecure and it's ok to live with that insecurity
Actually the whole world does—it is Americans that think we can guarantee safety
As Christians we deny the reality that we are nervous and afraid—thinking it is more Christian
But we are afraid! Without admitting the truth, we bankrupt ourselves trying to be safe
Instead—tell the truth! Live in truth and in the presence of God
Give our fear, troubles, pain, etc to God to redeem
Rest in what is
Know that no matter how awful it gets, God is there and will never leave us

The other problem is that Christians have not said what we are supposed to have faith in
We've assumed that having faith meant we had faith that the outcome would be good
But really what we are to have faith in—is faith that God is always with us no matter what
Don't lose track of the presence of God
No matter the outcome—good or bad—God will make something of it—God will redeem it

This journey is one of radical trust in the Living God
To face the hard times together as well as the good times
Hang on
When we get to those scary places—talk to God about them—ask, "What's next?"

Peter was an experienced disciple with many opportunities to learn what Jesus could do
The same is true with us—we aren't new to this journey of trust
But just like Peter, we sometimes get scared by the realities of life
We all need this reminder to hang on to Jesus and trust

Trust changes everything
Trust God
Trust each other—not because we will all say/do everything right
But because we can trust God in each other
Because we are committed to follow God together
Because we are committed to the long haul journey of trusting God together
Trust admits the truth and hangs in there

My nephew Miles likes to tell stories
At age 4 he said, "I'm going to tell you a story. It will be a little bit scary, but you'll be all right."
God says the same thing about life—we'll be all right

Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. 1 Corinthians 13:13 The Message Bible