**Walking on the Water – take the challenge**

<https://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/little-boy/faith-of-a-mustard-seed>

<https://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/little-boy/move-that-mountain?play=1>

Have you ever felt like God was calling you to do something?

How did you respond?

How do you think you would respond if he called you to do something you didn’t want to do?

Every Christian knows that Jesus walked on the water, but someone else did as well, Peter. Jesus and Peter were walking on the water together, while the other disciples stayed safely in the boat.

Matthew 14:28 Peter answered him and said, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the waters.' He said, 'Come!' Peter stepped down from the boat and walked on the waters to come to Jesus But when he saw that the wind was strong, he was afraid, and beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, 'Lord, save me!' Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand, took hold of him, and said to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?'

Peter was willing to risk it all, when he stretched his faith and stepped out of the boat on to the water to come to Jesus. Peter took that first step in faith and Jesus rewarded him for it by allowing him to be the only other person in history to walk on water.

Many people will focus on the doubt and fear that came over Peter and caused him to start sinking. But it took a lot of courage to step out of a perfectly good boat during a storm.

We have to give Peter Credit for taking that first step in faith. Peter had faults, doubts, and fears, just like the rest of us but he got out of the boat and walked on the water while all the others thought he was crazy.

Unfortunately, Peter took his eyes of Jesus, saw the waves, fear took over and he began to sink. This has happened to many people who have stepped out in Faith to follow the lord but then lose their focus on Christ. Fortunately, all Peter had to do was cry out 'Lord save me!' and Jesus immediately took hold of him.

* **Definition of Obstacles: Something you see when you take your eyes of the goal**

**We can step out in Faith knowing that God will always be with us**

Even though Peter had His faults, God was still willing to use him as long as he did not let his faults hold him back.

God will use you right now, just as you are. He can change your heart, your life and your desires. There are many things in my life God has changed and more that he has called me to change. He usually does it gently one thing at a time but you have to be willing to let him change you.

God will show you what to change and you will know it because it will repeatedly come to mind. It will show up in sermons, Tv shows. Each time you open the Bible, there will be a scripture on it.

As we read through the New Testament, we see how Peter went from this scared kid to being a rock (Jesus named him Cephas, “Peter,” which Means "rock" in Aramaic) and a leader of the new Church

Matthew 16:18 I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. (I know there is an entire discussion around what Jesus meant by this but I will save that discussion for another time)

* **It is always better to align with God’s plans than to try and get Him to align with yours.**

Most of my life I have felt unqualified to do what God had called me to do and I believe I have missed out on many opportunities and blessing because of this fear. I have sat on the sidelines and in the safety of the boat instead of getting in the game and out on the water by trusting God.

So often we will give God excuses why we can’t do something or why he can’t use us.

I am to young, to old, not smart enough, don’t have the resources ….

* **God doesn’t call the qualified he qualifies those he calls**

Think about:

* A young farmer boy, youngest of 12 brothers, becoming 2nd in command of Egypt - Joseph,
* A young Shepheard boy, Youngest of seven brothers, defeating Giants and becoming a King - David
* A young Jewish Girl becoming queen of a foreign Nation just at the right moment to save her entire race - Ester
* A group of teenagers leaving everything to become disciples of Christ and changing the world Peter, James & John …timothy

The only thing that I am confident of anymore is this: **God will bring you through anything that He brings you to**. It really does not matter what it is, He will equip you on the fly and make you shine as long as you do not let your own fear and doubt hold you back. If you step out on the water, He will put a rock there (Peter). If you step into the fire he we provide a shield (shadrach meshach and Abednego). If you go up against any army of people he will scatter them before you (Gideon)

Isaiah 43:2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

The Lord will call those who are willing to leave the safety of the boat and take a risk. But when you step out in faith, doubt and fear are going to attack you. Expect this to happen as the enemy is always ready to strike fear in you. And if you start sinking, don't panic, just cry out to the Lord Jesus. He is not going to let you down.

If you begin to say that you cannot do it, then you are defeating yourself and will sink just like Peter did. In reality you can’t do it on your own. But you are not alone as long as you hold onto Jesus. You can do anything he calls you to do if He is with you.

Now it is not always going to be easy and many people will walk away from God’s calling because it is too much work or embarrassing or they may lose friends or they don’t feel they can do it.

But in the end God will make it all worth your effort or he will find someone else.

David, Joseph, Ester, Peter had to go through many trials to get to where they were able to do great things.

* David had to fight of bears and lions to protect his sheep and hide in caves as he was hunted down by Saul before he became King
* Joseph was sold in to slavery and sat in prison for years before he was second in command of Egypt
* Ester was an exile in a foreign land and had to face fear of death going to the king before she saved her entire race
* The disciples faced many persecutions and even death

Sometimes God puts us through some tough trials to make sure we are ready for the blessings he wants to poor out on us and use us to bless others.

Now I should mention When God calls you to do something it may not be something great or awesome. Many times, we miss great opportunities because it starts out looking too small for us, Not worth our time, but we have to start out small because doing great things can lead to Pride and God needs to prepare us for the challenges ahead.

* **We should not be focused on doing great things for God but letting God do great things in and through us.**

Accept the little things God gives you to do and never dismiss them because they can and will lead to greater things.

Luke 13:18-19 Then Jesus asked, “What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches.”

A mustard seed is small, but the life inside it is huge. Our individual efforts may seem small as a mustard seed but rather than worrying about the size of our effort or whether we are up to the task, the scripture invites us to take even small acts in faith. By God’s grace, the results of our small acts will contribute to the glory of God in great ways.

It is like one man telling someone about Christ and then end up saving thousands.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6qNdPvST18>

In closing let me ask you a question. Do you know which other disciples where in the boat with Jesus that day? (The bible doesn’t say) No one ever talks about the person who stays in the safety of the boat, the person who doesn’t step up and out. Like in Esther’s case she was afraid to approach the king but her uncle told her”

Esther 4:14 For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

If that happened, we would now be talking about someone else

I have great hope for every one of you. No matter your age, sex Background, past ….God can use you to do Great things but you need to step out in Faith with the small things first. Don’t let Gods challenges pass you by. Live life on the edge knowing Christ has your back. This world isn’t getting any better. We need strong people to step up and stand up for what is right and not waver in their convictions.

What things are you seeing changing for the worse?

* **If we want to see God move you need to take the first step in Faith**

Are there things you want in life? Are they aligned with God’s will? Then act in faith and in prayer and start moving on them. Don’t just sit there and wait for God to hand them to you. (What could you be doing now to prepare for the things you want in the future?)

Prayer: Father, please help me to follow you wherever you will take me. I put my trust in You. Lead me into all that You have for me. Take me into deeper water and through the fires that I might glorify your name. In the name of Jesus Christ.