

*But when the disciples saw Jesus walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. [Matthew 14:26-29]*

A couple weeks ago I took my kids to Pioneer Park in downtown Puyallup. It's a beautiful area of town and my kids love playing there. In addition to climbing on the playground equipment, there is a large, circular, elevated brick flower garden between the play equipment and the splash park, and for some reason that flower garden looked like a playground to them. So, they climbed up and proceeded to walk around; about three feet above the ground. I stood by watching, making sure they didn't walk in the flowers. My 4-year-old got to the opposite side of the garden when all of a sudden, she disappeared; falling off the bricks. I immediately ran to help her. I found her a little stunned but fine. What happened was that she took her eyes off what she was doing and simply walked right off. She eventually laughed it off, but I couldn't help but see a theological connection. Leave it to a pastor to do that ☐

In the midst of Peter's fear, while in that storm, he and the others see Jesus walking on the water. At first they thought he was a ghost, but Jesus quickly attempted to calm their fears. Seeing that it was indeed Jesus, Peter asked to come to him on the water. Jesus said, "Come" and so Peter leaped out. In his fear, Peter wanted to be near Jesus, and who could blame him. It wasn't until he lost focus that he began to sink. Again, in his fear, Peter called out to Jesus and he was there to save him.

The metaphor has been used to death but it still rings true: **In the midst of life's storms, keep your eyes on Jesus.** Personally, I can think of many times when I have run to Jesus in times of fear to find comfort, but then feel myself sinking because I started to reflect on my fears again. Jesus walks on the water in our lives to show us his Lordship over all creation. He walks on the water and bids us to come to him. As Lord over creation then, when Jesus says, "Come", listen to him and focus on him. He's not going to send you out on the water to drown. Life's storms have nothing on Jesus and through faith in him, they have nothing on you. So walk. Walk boldly on the waters and let the wind and waves rage all they want for Jesus is standing on them as Lord.