

was okay, so he stepped out onto the water. He trusted Jesus.

He stepped out of the boat because Jesus had called him, and his faith held him up.

But then he saw the darkness all around him, he felt the the wind stinging his face, he saw the swirling black water beneath him... and he doubted. He took his eyes off Jesus and he became afraid.

He forgot about Jesus.

And he sank.

And it may be that Peter learned a lesson that night that he never forgot. When trouble is all around - keep your eyes on Jesus. He will never let you sink.



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WALKING ON WATER

By Paul Dallgas-Frey

... continued from last time

"Lord, is it really you?" Peter said, holding his hand over his eyes to block the spray of the splashing waves.

"If it really IS you, tell me to come out to you on the water!"

Peter was a brave man! Or he was crazy!

Jesus said, "Come."

Peter stuck one leg out over the side of the boat and set his foot on the water. It didn't sink in!

He stepped out with his other foot, and it didn't sink. He stood up. He was standing on the water! He took one step, and then another, and then another. He was walking on the water, just like Jesus!

Peter was walking on the water!

He might have even been thinking to himself, "Hey! Look at me. I am walking on the water! Aren't I great!"

But wait a minute. People can't walk on water. And then Peter started to look around him. All of a sudden, the boat seemed awfully small and far away. There was nothing but black, churning water all around him. The waves were lapping at his feet, water was stinging his eyes.

And then, just like that, the water under his feet let go.

"Help me, Lord!" Peter gulped, splashing wildly as the cold water swallowed him down.
"Save me!"

But before the water could gulp Peter down entirely, Jesus reached down with his strong hand (he WAS a carpenter after all) and grabbed him by the arm.

"Oh you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

And with that, Jesus pulled Peter up out of the water and carried him, dripping wet, back to the boat.

Just as they were climbing over the side of the boat, the wind died away and the sea turned smooth as glass. Everything was suddenly peaceful and quiet.

One minute the wind was roaring and the sea was crashing, the next all was peaceful and calm. Some of the disciples must have remembered just then the Psalm they learned in Hebrew school -

"Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress. He stilled the storm to a whisper, the waves of the sea were hushed."

(That was from Psalm 107, in case you haven't been to Hebrew school yet.)

Those disciples knew that only God has the power to calm the wind and the waves - and that's just what Jesus did.

"Truly you ARE the Son of God!" they said to Jesus in awe and wonder. And they bowed down and worshipped him right then and there.

NOW...

...we don't know for sure, but maybe Peter sat there shivering in the back of the boat with a blanket wrapped around his shoulders, thinking about all that had just happened. And maybe he was hearing over and over in his head the words Jesus had calmly said, "Why did you doubt?"

'Oh, you of little faith. Why did you doubt?'

Why DID Peter doubt?

Just the day before he saw Jesus turn two fish and five loaves of bread into enough to feed five thousand people. And now he saw Jesus walking on the water. Jesus said it