

SESSION FOUR: WALKING ON WATER

Statement...any act of faith requires a response. Being a Christian isn't just admiring Jesus; it is learning to walk with him, taking first step of faith when no one else will budge an inch. It him starts every day. Will we follow or ignore him, walk by faith, or put off it?

THE LOOK OF CHRIST...those few words, "Peter walked on water" grip us. It isn't just a story! Peter knew the joy/freedom that come to those who step out in faith. A moment that lives in infamy:

The 1st time a mortal walked on water: the sensation of water solid beneath his feet, his friends' shock, Jesus' look of approval. Imagine what ran through his mind. His 1st thought was to notice Jesus; his joy of seeing his student taking him at his word. For as long as their walk lasted, it was a precious moment

WHAT FAITH LOOKS LIKE...the more we put our faith to work, the more our faith works on us. We'd like less risky ways to grow faith than walking on water. We want know where our faith will take us-the risks involved, the unintended consequences. people who live in fear love stories of God's power. How much faith do we need? Just enough faith to take a first step, to learn to trust God enough to get past our COMFORT ZONES. What STEPS OF FAITH might God want us to take now? Our goal is to expand our comfort zones and learn to let God use us in surprising, new ways. Ortberg calls it the "FIRST STEP PRINCIPLE":

Obedience to God always involves taking a first step, our acting on the faith we have.

Courage...never let WHAT YOU CAN'T DO stop you from doing WHAT YOU CAN DO. Peter either had to trust God to help him stay afloat or he was history. Getting out of our boats is risky but how else will we know that God's grace is sufficient. We are talking about courage. Don't confuse it with bravery/self-sufficiency. Courage isn't the absence of fear; it is fear that said its prayers. It leads us to take risks worth taking. Jesus found courage by trusting God a day at a time. He faced fear because there was SOMETHING MORE at stake than his safety: his MISSION.

PRAYER...getting out of our boats begins in prayer: we ask God for wisdom, to show us where he wants us to get our feet wet. Many of us pray as if God's main goal is to KEEP US SAFE, reduce our fears, make us COMFORTABLE. Prayer doesn't REDUCE PROBLEMS; it creates opportunities