

There are stories of Jesus on water that are more memorable than today's story. The two that jump out at me is when Jesus is walking on the water and Peter steps out of the boat as well but his fear causes him to sink. The other big story has Jesus sleeping in the boat as a bad storm tosses it about. The disciples wake him up and he calms the storm.

But this is the story of Jesus coming at a rough time in a miraculous way. At the time, the only way that the disciples could have Jesus active in their own lives was if they were actually in their presence. Jesus had not died and rose from the dead yet nor had he ascended to heaven. For us today, Jesus comes to us through the work of the Holy Spirit.

When he joins us, when we willingly receive him, Jesus enters into our very being. He joins those who put their faith and trust in Him in such a way that no matter what we go through, we have Christ within our heart.

Who has a GPS? Our GPS hasn't been updated since we bought it. When I am coming home from a trip and it is still on, I end up going cross country on Mapbox. I'm on a road, it's just that the GPS doesn't know it. It looks like on the GPS that I'm driving in a field.

In this miracle, Jesus isn't out there walking on a sand bar, it's not an illusion. He's walking on the water. And He's not out on the water going, "Where am I?" He doesn't need to recalculate.

Why do you think Jesus was out there walking on the water? He knows what the disciples need. He knows they need Him and He's there for them, it just happens to be they're 3-4 miles from shore in the water.

On the water, Jesus doesn't need to get into the boat. Jesus is doing just fine without them or their boat. But they need Jesus. So many people know Jesus is there, just outside their boat, but they won't let Him get in.

But letting him get on the boat isn't even enough. For a Christian, it's just a step because we've got to let him steer. He knows where we're going. The Christian life on this earth is not about a daily destination, it's about the journey. Tomorrow he'll direct us somewhere else.

I heard a sermon once where the pastor said if you have faith, Jesus won't steer you into the storms. I tend to disagree with that. I believe most of us have traveled through some pretty intense storms throughout our lives and I do not believe that it happened because we lacked faith. Now don't get me wrong, I think everyone us lacks faith because we are always sinning against God. But our lack of faith is not the reason for bad things happening in our life.

Back in the mid 90s, I took some of the middle school youth from St. Petes to Estes Park and while we were there, we went white water rafting. We all got into our raft and we basically had one job and that was to paddle. We were supposed to paddle and trust our guide to steer the raft through the rough water as he shouted out to us on how to paddle. Sometimes he yells right side forward and left side backward or all forward or even all backward. He gives the directions and steers because the guide knows the river.

In a similar way, we need to start following orders from God. God knows what we have been through and where we are going. HE knows what dangers are before us and promises to always stay with us.

Some of you need to start by letting him on your boat. He's saying, "It is I; don't be afraid." It might not immediately calm the storm. Satan may stir up the waters even more so your ship tosses worse than it ever has. Let Jesus on board and let Him take the wheel of the ship. He can get you safely past the obstacles, safely through the seas.