

Matthew 14:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

Analysis

But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid (βλέπων δὲ τὸν ἄνεμον ἰσχυρὸν ἐφοβήθη, blepōn de ton anemon ischyron ephobēthē)—the shift from 'looking at Jesus' to 'seeing the wind' marks the moment of failure. The word blepōn (seeing, perceiving) indicates Peter's focus shifted from Christ to circumstances. **Beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me** (ἀρξάμενος καταποντίζεσθαι ἔκραξεν λέγων, Κύριε, σῶσόν με, arxamenos katapontizesthai ekraxen legōn, Kyrie, sōson me)—even sinking, Peter had the presence of mind to cry to Christ. The word ekraxen (cried out) conveys desperate urgency.

Peter's cry 'Lord, save me' is the essential gospel prayer—acknowledging both Christ's lordship and our desperate need. Though his faith wavered, Peter knew where to turn in crisis. This three-word prayer contains the essence of salvation: recognizing Christ's authority ('Lord'), our helplessness (implicit in 'save'), and personal need ('me').

Historical Context

The Sea of Galilee could produce waves 10-15 feet high during storms. Peter, an experienced fisherman who had survived countless storms, found himself sinking not from inexperience but from unbelief. The miracle's interruption teaches that sustaining faith is as necessary as initiating faith. The 'boisterous wind' (literally 'strong wind') represents the trials that test whether our faith rests in Christ's word or favorable circumstances.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What 'winds and waves' in your life cause you to shift your gaze from Christ to circumstances, and how can you maintain focus on him?
2. How does Peter's immediate cry to Jesus even while sinking demonstrate that failing faith should drive us toward Christ, not away from him?
3. Why did Peter begin to sink the moment he focused on the storm rather than on Jesus, and what does this teach about the nature of faith?

Interlinear Text

βλέπων	δὲ	τὸν	ἄνεμον	ἰσχυρὸν	ἐφοβήθη	καὶ
when he saw	But	G3588	the wind	boisterous	he was afraid	and
G991	G1161		G417	G2478	G5399	G2532
ἀρξάμενος	καταποντίζεσθαι	ἔκραξεν	λέγων,	Κύριε	σῶσόν	
beginning	to sink	he cried	saying	Lord	save	
G756	G2670	G2896	G3004	G2962	G4982	
με						
me						
G3165						

Additional Cross-References

Mark 14:38 (Parallel theme): Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.

Psalms 3:7 (Salvation): Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God: for thou hast smitten all mine enemies upon the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly.

2 Kings 6:15 (Parallel theme): And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?

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