

Wherefore Didst Thou Doubt?

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

"And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water; to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" Matthew 14:29-31.

Peter is once again in the spotlight as he speaks rashly without thinking of the consequences of his words. Rashly? Yes, I think so for if you notice when he said the words he said, "Lord, if it be thou, bid me come to thee on the water." The word "If" means that he was not certain that it was the Lord, so if it had been someone else he could have been asked to come. Before leaving the ship, I would have had to be certain that it was the Lord.

Whatever he was thinking, he climbed over the side and started walking on the water. He was doing it, and I would think that his faith would have gotten stronger as he went along coming closer to Jesus all the time. Matthew's account doesn't tell us how far he was on his walk to the

Lord, but he was drawing nearer to the Lord with every step. When we get closer to something, or someone, we can see better. Peter was actually walking on the water and whether he walked ten feet, or fifty, he was part of a miracle.

It would appear from the account of this happening that he was close to the Lord when he lost his focus. Instead of completing his journey, he let his mind wander away from the Lord and he began to look at where he was and at the wind and waves. A person can't focus on two things at the same time. When Peter was focused on Jesus he had no trouble walking on the water. He was doing fine until he started thinking about where he was and how bad the storm was and perhaps how far he was from the ship.

Peter started sinking into the water and he knew that he would drown and die if he didn't get help. He didn't worry about what the others in the ship would say, he knew the Lord was his only hope and so he cried out for the Lord to save him. Jesus was close enough that he reached out and took hold of Peter's hand and lifted him up. That close and still going down because he took his mind off the Lord and looked at the conditions of the world.

The Lord asked Peter a question and I wonder if he

tried to answer it. *"O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" Matthew 14:31.* This question was put to Peter as the Lord lifted him up to once again walk on the sea. Peter's doubt pushed his faith out for they could not exist together. Some of the definitions of doubt are - fear, lack confidence in, to consider unlikely, to be uncertain. These seem to be the way that Peter was feeling as he looked at the storm and his position on the water. Reason said that a man can't walk on water, but faith says that he can.

Doubt will put a stop to faith and trusting in the Lord if it is allowed to grow and stay in a person's mind and heart. This thing called doubt is the enemy of faith and will work against the right relationship with God. When we doubt we are not trusting in God and have no confidence in him. A little bit of doubt will eat up your faith and cause you to lose your hope of salvation. Faith is either there in us or it is not. Doubt is the same and it is either in us or it is not. One thing is for sure we can not have both, we either believe the Lord, or we doubt him.

Some have been blessed and brought through so much and still let doubt creep in and turn them from the faith. The Lord could ask the same question, *"Wherefore didst thou doubt?"*

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397 Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of I Samuel intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

SAMUEL AND SAUL

SAMUEL, THE GREAT PROPHET, HAS LED ISRAEL WISELY AND WELL, NOW, IN HIS OLD AGE, THE PEOPLE BEGIN TO WORRY - WHO WILL LEAD THEM WHEN SAMUEL HAS PASSED AWAY?!

NOT EVEN SAMUEL'S TWO SONS ARE GOOD PRIESTS!

THIS IS TRUE! THEY DO EVIL IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD!

WHAT THEN SHALL WE DO WHEN SAMUEL IS GONE - WHO SHALL LEAD US?

EVEN NOW THE PHILISTINES MOVE TO MAKE WAR UPON US, AND SAMUEL IS TOO OLD!

OTHER PEOPLE HAVE KINGS TO LEAD THEM - KINGS TO FIGHT FOR THEM!

LET US ASK SAMUEL FOR A KING - A KING TO LEAD ISRAEL IN BATTLE!

AND SO, IN HIS HOME AT RAMAH, THE PEOPLE COME TO SAMUEL TO ASK FOR A KING - TO LEAD THEM IN A MANNER IN WHICH NONE OF THE PRIESTS NOR OLD SAMUEL ARE QUALIFIED!

SAMUEL, GIVE US A KING!

LET US HAVE A KING WHO WILL BE JUDGE OVER US!

ISRAEL NEEDS A KING TO FIGHT AGAINST THOSE WHO WOULD DO US EVIL!

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