

When Fear Comes

I. Their thinking was wrong about Jesus (*Matthew 14:22-27 NLT*)

- They did not recognize Him
 1. Thinking He was a ghost ratcheted up their fear
 2. They had never seen Him in this light
- The more we know about Jesus, the less fear has a grip on our lives (*Hebrews 13:5-6 CSB*)
 1. The more we know He has not come to hurt our lives
 2. The more we know He will be with us and not leave
 3. The more we know He will help us and we are not on our own

II. Jesus answered their fear with His words

- His word preceded His physical presence
 1. They must have had a hard time seeing Him
 2. He did not wait until He was in the boat to comfort
 3. He immediately spoke up to address their fears
- His words are still living and powerful today to address our fears (*Romans 1:16-17 NLT*)
 1. We don't physically see Jesus - but we have His promises
 2. Choosing to believe His words makes them powerful in our lives

III. When Peter's focus shifted, his fear level increased (*Matthew 14:28-33 NLT*)

- He became distracted by his turbulent environment
 1. Started looking/thinking about what was going on around him
 2. Peter lost focus on Jesus and what He said
- Losing focus can lead to an increase in fear
 1. It's very easy to become distracted in our current environment
 2. Our focus has to be intentional, not casual (*Hebrews 2:1 NASB*)