DON’T GET DISTRACTED

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Matthew 14:25-30 KJV
25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. 26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. 27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. 28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. 29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

SUBJ: Don’t get distracted!

INTRODUCTION

Distractions are a part of life, and they are everywhere.

Every believer will face distractions.

- Your job can distract you from your assignment.
- Your family can distract you from your purpose.
- Your health can distract you from your faith.
- Your finances can distract you from trusting God.
- Even ministry and church activities can distract you from Jesus Himself.

The enemy doesn’t always have to destroy you if he can simply distract you.
One of Satan’s greatest weapons isn’t persecution and destruction —it’s distraction.
Notice that Peter didn’t begin sinking because Jesus changed.
The water didn’t change.

The Word didn't change.
Peter changed where he was looking.

Matthew 14:28-30 28
And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. 29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

Peter was doing something impossible because he was operating on one word from Jesus.
Jesus simply said, "Come."
That one word was enough to suspend the laws of nature.
Peter wasn't walking on water.
Peter was walking on the Word.
The only reason Peter could do the impossible was because his faith was attached to what Jesus said.

Romans 10:17
So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Faith isn't produced by circumstances.
Faith comes from God's Word.
Peter had enough faith to leave the boat because he believed what Jesus said.

But verse 30 says, "When he saw the wind…"
The moment he shifted his focus from Christ to his circumstances…
Fear replaced faith.
When faith leaves…
Fear enters.

2 Corinthians 5:7
For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Peter stopped walking by faith and started walking by sight.
That's when he began sinking.

The Nature of Distractions

One thing about distractions…
They always appear after God gives direction.
Notice the order.
Jesus said, "Come."
Then Peter walked.

Then the wind became his focus.
Distractions always come after instruction.
The enemy never fights people who are standing still.
He fights people who are moving toward Jesus.

Nehemiah 6:1-4

When Nehemiah was rebuilding Jerusalem's wall, Sanballat repeatedly tried to pull him away from the work.

Nehemiah responded,
"I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down."

That ought to be every believer's testimony.

I don't have time for every argument.
I don't have time for every offense.
I don't have time for every distraction.
I'm too busy doing what God called me to do.

Sometimes spiritual maturity is knowing what not to respond to.

Genesis 2 & 3
God placed Adam in the Garden with purpose.

He gave him responsibility.
He gave him provision.

He gave him one command.
But Satan never attacked Adam's strength.
He attacked his focus.

The serpent distracted Eve from everything she had by making her focus on the one thing she couldn't have.
Distractions magnify what you're missing while minimizing what God has already provided.
Eve stopped looking at God's blessings...
and started looking at one forbidden tree.
That's exactly how distraction works.

James 1:14-15
But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust...

Notice those words— "drawn away."
Distractions pull you away from where you're supposed to be.

#1 HOLD ON TO THE WORD

Peter left the boat because of one word.
He began sinking because he forgot that word.
The wind never had authority over Peter.
Fear did.
If God said "Come," the wind couldn't stop what God had already authorized.

Revelation 3:10
Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

If you keep the word, the word will keep you!

Isaiah 55:11
So shall my word be…it shall not return unto me void.

God's Word never loses its power.
Our confidence in it sometimes does.
The problem isn't that God stopped speaking.
The problem is that we stop believing.

Hebrews 4:12
For the word of God is quick, and powerful…

God's Word isn't merely information.
It's transformation.
It's alive.
It's active.
It strengthens the weary.
It comforts the broken.
It corrects the wandering.
It gives life.

Psalm 119:105
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

The Word keeps us from wandering into distractions because it continually points us back toward Christ.

#2 STAY FOCUSED ON WHAT YOU'RE DOING AND WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

Understand that in order for you to achieve or accomplish anything great, you have to be a person of great focus!

(NOTE: You can't focus on the distractions around you, and still see where GOD is bringing you!)

Peter sank because he looked at the storm longer than he looked at Jesus.
Where your attention goes… your life follows.

Hebrews 12:1-2
Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith

Notice the writer doesn't simply tell us to run.
He tells us where to look while we're running.
Victory isn't found by watching everybody else.
Victory comes by looking unto Jesus.

Colossians 3:2
Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Our minds naturally drift toward problems.
We have to intentionally focus on Christ.

Isaiah 26:3
Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee

Peace isn't produced by the absence of storms.
Peace is produced by the presence of Christ.
Peter didn't lose peace because the wind increased.
He lost peace because his focus shifted.

CONCLUSION

#3 YOU CAN'T QUIT!

At some point everyone’s race will end, but you can't quit the race, you have to finish the race!

(SAYING) "Quitters never win and winners never quit!"

You can't quit and expect to win, and you can't expect to win, if you quit!"

QUITTING:

When you quit, you're telling GOD that you don't believe he can do it and you eliminate any opportunity for GOD to move on your behalf.

As long as you're trying, you're giving GOD something to work with!

Peter may have begun sinking…but he didn’t quit crying out.
That’s encouraging.
Even when your faith gets weak…don’t stop calling on Jesus.

The Bible says,
“Lord, save me.”

And immediately…
Jesus stretched forth His hand.

Psalm 37:23-24
Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand.

God doesn’t abandon His children because they stumble.
He lifts them.

Proverbs 24:16
For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again

The righteous aren't people who never fall.
They're people who keep getting back up.

Philippians 3:13-14
...forgetting those things which are behind... I press toward the mark...

Paul understood that you cannot finish the race while living in yesterday.
Keep pressing.