

“Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water to Jesus, BUT...”

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Once upon a time, a boy went to learn how to be a sailor. One day, when the sea was stormy, he was told to climb to the top of the mast.

The first half of the climb was easy. The boy kept his eyes fixed on the sky. **BUT**, halfway to the top, he made a mistake by looking down to the stormy waters. He grew dizzy and was in danger of falling. An old sailor called out to him:

“Look back to the sky, boy! Look back to the sky!”

The boy followed the man’s instructions ...and finished the climb safely.

**“What was the boy’s mistake?” you ask.
Well, I am glad you asked that question!**

The mistake the boy made was the same one Peter made in today’s Gospel, which I just read to you from St. Matthew. He ^(the boy) took his eyes off his goal and looked down at the stormy sea, just as Peter took his eyes off Jesus and looked at the stormy sea.

All too often, this is exactly what happens to you and me. We start our day... we start our lives ...just fine. We have our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus. He is a part of our day, a part of our life. **BUT**...and there’s that proverbial **BUT** in life, something happens to make us take our eyes off Jesus. We look away from Jesus. And that’s when we lose our balance; that’s when we begin to sink.

Today’s Gospel reading invites us to take an honest look at our lives. If we don’t experience the interior peace and joy we once did, perhaps it’s because we’ve taken our eyes off Jesus at times.

If we find ourselves in danger of being swallowed up by the stormy seas of life, perhaps it’s because we’ve turned away from Jesus far more than we realize!

This Gospel invites us to turn our eyes back to Jesus, to focus ever more clearly upon him.

It invites us to say with Peter:

“Lord, save me!”

If we accept this Gospel’s invitation, I can assure you we will experience what Peter did. We will experience the hand of Jesus reaching out to us in love. We may not experience it immediately and miraculously. **BUT**, if we keep calling, we will indeed experience it. We will say with Peter:

“Lord, you are, indeed... the Son of God!”

I close with this prayer:

**Elijah, the prophet, found you in a whispering sound at a cave.
Paul found you in a flash of light on a road to a city.
Peter found you in the middle of a storm at sea.
Lord, help us find you, ever more intensely. Help us reach to you.
Help us experience again, & ever more deeply,
your saving presence in our lives...today
...not in a whisper ...or on a road ...or in a flash of light,
BUT... in our Communion with you at this... very... Mass.**

*May our ever loving, patient God, our Abba, bless you,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*