

Take-Home 2: Lord, Save Me

Keep your Take-Home 1 sheet safe, kept folded. We will need it.

WHAT WE FOUND

The disciples rowed into the storm because they obeyed; Jesus “made” them get into the boat (Matthew 14:22), and from the land He saw them straining at the oars against the wind (Mark 6:48). Obedience did not exempt them from the storm; it guaranteed that the One who sent them was coming. And He came in the fourth watch, walking on the very thing they feared, doing what the Scriptures say God alone does: trampling the waves of the sea. His word in the dark: “Take heart, it is I; have no fear” (Matthew 14:27).

Peter did not jump; he asked for a command first, and walked when he had one. “At your word” has become “command me.” Then verse 30: “when he saw the wind, he was afraid.” The wind had been blowing the whole time; the only thing that changed was where Peter was looking. And when he sank, three words were enough: “Lord, save me.” We traced that cry back through Psalm 69 and Jonah 2 and found the same pattern: the one in the deep does not save himself; he cries out, and God draws him out. “Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him” (Matthew 14:31), and only then, safe in His grip, came the gentle question. Rescue first, correction after; here the correction comes inside the rescue, not instead of it. And little faith that cries out to Jesus is enough for Him to save.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

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St. Augustine | *Sermon 76 (on Matthew 14)*

St. Augustine sees in Peter on the waves a figure of every Christian soul: strong when he looks to Christ, tottering the moment he presumes on himself. Peter walking is what we are by Christ's power; Peter sinking is what we are by our own; and Peter crying out is the only wisdom left to us, because the Lord who permitted the wavering is the same Lord who stretches out His hand.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. John Chrysostom | *Homilies on the Gospel of St. Matthew, Homily 50*

St. Chrysostom sees the Lord's training method here: He permits Peter to feel the danger and learn his own measure, then immediately seizes him, and corrects him only after he is safe. Peter's love outran his strength; the Physician used the gap to teach him where strength lives.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. Thérèse of Lisieux | Letter to Sister Marie of the Sacred Heart (LT 197, September 17, 1896) and Story of a Soul

St. Thérèse taught that it is confidence, and confidence alone, that leads us to Love: not the size of our strength but the boldness of our trust in His. Applied to tonight's scene, Peter sinking with his hand stretched toward Christ gives her teaching a single image: sanctity is not walking on water by our own balance; it is being caught.

LIVE IT THIS WEEK

1. Pray "Lord, save me" every single time you feel overwhelmed this week, the moment you notice. Keep a private count. Tell no one the number; just notice what changes by Sunday.
2. Pray with Matthew 14:22-33 once this week, placing yourself in the scene: leave the boat, feel the water hold, feel the moment your eyes drift to the wind. Stay there until you have let Him catch you.
3. Notice one moment this week when your attention slid from Christ to the wind. Write a single sentence about what pulled it, and bring the sentence to next session (you will not have to share it).

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

"Take heart, it is I; have no fear."

Matthew 14:27 (RSV2CE)

BEFORE NEXT SESSION

Read **Matthew 16:13-20**. As you read, notice where the conversation happens and what Jesus asks first before He asks the question that matters.

Catechism references from tonight: CCC 448, 164, 273.