



Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)

Day 2: Chorus

I will call upon Your Name
And keep my eyes above the waves
When oceans rise
My soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours and You are mine

Scripture Reference

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

- *Matthew 14: 22-27*



Over the next few days, we'll study the story of Jesus and Peter walking on water. Yesterday, we studied a storm that came upon the disciples. Today, our story focuses on severe winds. Either way, the waves are rising and causing difficulties. Aren't our own lives like that? The troubles of life can come in so many forms – whether it be strong winds, severe storms, or complete hurricanes. All of these come with varying realities and adjustments to our lives, but each of them is difficult in its own manner.

What is the difference between strong winds, severe storms, and complete hurricanes? Take a moment to recall a few memorable troubles in your life. Classify each one as strong winds, severe storms, or complete hurricanes. How did you respond differently to each?

In this scripture, Jesus and the disciples had just wrapped up with a large crowd. Jesus had sent the disciples into the boat. Then, they were left to maneuver through strong winds and wild waves. Phew, that sounds like a lot to deal with in such a short time. The disciples were likely exhausted and now they were faced with yet another challenge. It can seem as if Jesus just kept piling on the stress, so to speak. Don't we at times find ourselves feeling that way in our own relationship with Jesus? At times, we are just plumb worn out. At times, we can use up all the energy we can muster to just keep our eyes above the waves, can't we?

Discuss a time where you felt the challenges of life were more than you had energy for. What were the circumstances? How did you respond to the situation?



It's nearly morning, the wind and waves are out of control, and then they see someone walking on water. What a scene! So, what do the men think? It must be a ghost, of course. And fear begins to raise its ugly head. Jesus came to be with His disciples, and they stand in fear. They don't even recognize Him. Dear one, don't we often miss Jesus in the midst of our trials? Sometimes we're so caught up in our troubles or our exhaustion, we don't even recognize His presence.

Thinking about the trials and challenges you discussed in the first two questions – did you recognize Jesus in those moments? Did you turn to Him? If so, recall how you recognized Him – what stood out to you? If not, can you identify Him in those times now in hindsight?

So, the disciples don't recognize their own Savior, and how does Jesus respond? "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." He reassures them, comforts them, and encourages them. He reassures them He is the I AM. He comforts them telling them to not be afraid – He is control and there is nothing to fear. He encourages them, telling them to take courage. With Him, they can be brave; there is nothing to fear. Even to us today, He says: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." Our soul can rest in His embrace.

How does Jesus' statement bring you reassurance, comfort, and encouragement? End today praising your Heavenly Father for His faithfulness in your trials. If you need reassurance, comfort, or encouragement today, ask the Holy Spirit to fill you up. Rest in His embrace.
