

Southern Adventist University

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The Main Thing Devotional

Chaplain's Office

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A Savior for the Sinking

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“And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, ‘It’s a ghost!’ And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘Take heart; it is I. Don’t be afraid.’” Matthew 14: 25-27 ESV

A Savior for the Sinking

Raging storms have unleashed torrential downpours upon us this past week. It may be symbolic of a storm or storms you have been facing in your life in other ways. Yet, just as we see in this story, Jesus never loses sight of you, he prays prayers of intercession on your behalf, and at some point, in some way, Jesus personally intervenes in the midst of whatever challenging circumstances you may find yourself in.

In this story, Jesus comes to the disciples just when they’ve given up hope and find themselves totally helpless. While he doesn’t immediately stop the storm, when he comes to them walking on the water, He does reveal His power and authority over the storm. This should serve as a reminder to us: Jesus doesn’t just call us, only to forsake us, (Isaiah 43:1-3). If you are in the midst of a storm of some kind right now, Jesus hasn’t forsaken you. Though you may not feel Him or hear Him, He’s still present. It’s just a matter of time before He reveals Himself to you.

Peter sees Jesus and asks: “Command me to come to you walking on the water.” Instead of a guarantee, Peter asks Jesus for a command. Our guarantee isn’t a what, it’s a who. Your guarantee isn’t found in what job you’ll land after college, or what tomorrow will look like. The only guarantee we can fully depend on in life is knowing Jesus.

Jesus responds to Peter, “Come.” Peter then climbs out of the boat, which symbolizes all that he has been and everything that formerly gave him security and provision, and he becomes a water-walker. In the process of walking on the water, Peter does begin to sink, yes, but he cries out for help. And Jesus rescues him. *Then* the storm stops. While Jesus has the power to stop your storm, He also has the power to bring you *through* it and enhance your faith as a result.

Whatever you may be facing today, whatever storm has threatened to beat you down or has brought you to a place of feeling helpless or hopeless, I pray that you’ll cling to Jesus to guide you through it.

Reflection:

- Are you so set on having a guarantee that you’ve stopped asking Jesus for a command?
- If Jesus hasn’t stopped your storm yet and is looking to enhance your faith by calling you to be a water-walker, what do you think is the first step He’s asking you to take today?

NEWS & RESOURCES

- Follow **@saucampusministries** on Instagram for updates on events and programs as well as encouraging messages!
- If you may be feeling anxious or have recently experienced loss or grief call 423.236.2782 to talk to a counselor on campus! (This is a free service for Southern students.)
- **Talk online** with Chaplain [Anna Bennett](#) or [Joseph Khabbaz](#) if you need someone to pray with or have a desire to grow spiritually.

Blessings,

Anna Bennett / Associate Chaplain