

FOLLOW ME

MADE BY JESUS

THE LIFE, MINISTRY, AND LETTERS OF PETER

A study in the formation of a disciple

Message 4

Matthew 14:22-33



FOLLOW ME

— MADE BY JESUS —

THE LIFE, MINISTRY, AND LETTERS OF PETER

MESSAGE 4 | FAITH:

WHEN FAITH WAVERS

MATTHEW 14:22-33

PETER'S FAITH WAVERS.
JESUS DOES NOT.



Formation before mission

WITH HIM BEFORE SENT BY HIM

PRESENCE BEFORE PERFORMANCE

FORMATION BEFORE MISSION

In the storm, Peter is being formed by Jesus.

Big Idea

Jesus reveals Himself as the sovereign Son of God who calls us to trust His word, holds us when our faith wavers, and leads us into deeper worship.

PETER'S FAITH WAVERS. JESUS DOES NOT.

Loaves before waves

They have just watched Jesus feed the five thousand.

Mark 6:52: “They had not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves...”

Little faith forgets in the present what Jesus has already revealed in the past.

I. Jesus sometimes leads His disciples into circumstances that test their faith.

ἀναγκάζω · anankazō

make · compel · strongly urge

They are struggling where Jesus sent them, while obeying Him.

Christ's apparent absence is not Christ's ignorance. Mark says He sees them straining at the oars.

II. Jesus reveals His divine identity in the very thing His disciples fear.

Fourth watch: approximately 3–6 a.m.

Job 9:8 LXX: περιπατῶν (peripatōn) ... ἐπὶ θαλάσσης (epi thalassēs)

God alone walks upon the sea. See Psalm 77:19 and Psalm 107:23–30.

The answer to fear begins with Christ's presence: “It is I; do not be afraid.”

MATTHEW 14:27

“It is I. Do not be afraid.”

θαρσεῖτε (tharseite), ἐγώ εἰμι (egō eimi), μὴ φοβεῖσθε (mē phobeisthe)

ἐγώ εἰμι (egō eimi) ordinarily identifies Jesus personally: “It is I.”

**In this Old Testament sea context, the words carry significant divine resonance.
Matthew does not require an explicit Exodus 3:14 quotation.**

III. Faith acts upon Christ's word even before the circumstances change.

Peter asks for Christ's command: "Command me to come to You."

Jesus says: COME

Luke 5: "At Your word..." | Matthew 14: "Command me... Come."

Faith takes Jesus at His word. Peter obeys while the wind is still blowing.

IV. Our faith wavers when our circumstances become more compelling than Christ's word.

The wind was there when Peter stepped out.

Nothing about Jesus changed. Nothing about His command changed. Something changed in Peter.

Peter's problem isn't that the wind suddenly becomes powerful. His problem is that the wind becomes more compelling to him than the One who said, "Come."

MATTHEW 14:31

Little faith, not no faith

ὀλιγόπιστος · oligopistos

little faith, not no faith

διστάζω · distazō

doubt · waver

“Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him.

V. Jesus uses wavering faith to lead His disciples into deeper worship.

Matthew 8:27: “What kind of a man is this?”

Matthew 14:33: “You are certainly God’s Son!”

They worship Jesus. Deeper Christology is the fruit of formation.

The theological guardrail

NOT: Get out of the boat → believe hard enough → accomplish extraordinary things.

RATHER: Christ reveals Himself → Peter trusts → Peter wavers → Christ rescues → Christ corrects → disciples worship.

Reflection

Where are present circumstances becoming more compelling to me than what Christ has said?

What has Jesus already shown me about Himself that I am tempted to forget?

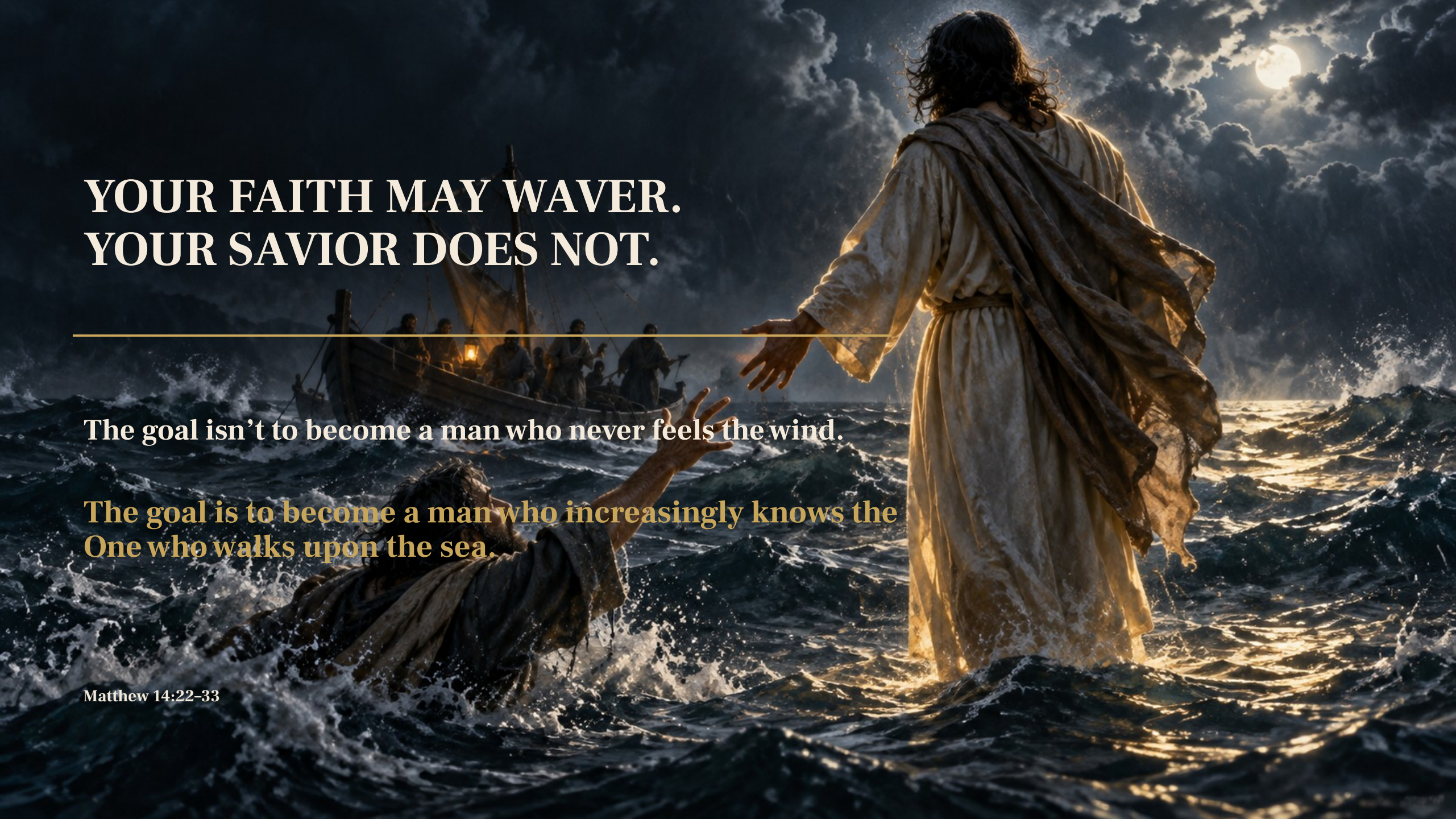
When my faith wavers, do I withdraw—or cry, “Lord, save me”?

Is difficulty producing greater fear of circumstances or deeper knowledge and worship of Christ?

“

The strength of Peter's faith was never the ultimate security of Peter. The strength of Peter's Savior was.

Matthew 14:22-33

A dramatic scene of Jesus walking on the water towards a boat of disciples in a stormy sea at night. Jesus, with long hair and a white robe, stands in the water, reaching out with his right hand towards a man who is struggling in the waves. The man, also in a robe, is partially submerged, with only his head and one arm visible. In the background, a wooden boat with several people inside is lit by a warm light, possibly a lantern. The sky is dark and filled with heavy, swirling clouds, with a bright light source (the moon or sun) visible in the upper right corner, casting a golden glow on the water and Jesus's robe. The overall mood is one of divine power and rescue.

YOUR FAITH MAY WAVER. YOUR SAVIOR DOES NOT.

The goal isn't to become a man who never feels the wind.

The goal is to become a man who increasingly knows the
One who walks upon the sea.

Matthew 14:22-33