



# Daily Reflections

**August 7, 2018**

---

## Scripture

### **Matthew 14: 22-36**

Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and precede him to the other side of the sea, while he dismissed the crowds.

After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray.

When it was evening he was there alone.

Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it.

During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them, walking on the sea.

When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified.

"It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear.

At once Jesus spoke to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter said to him in reply,

"Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

He said, "Come."

Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus.

But when he saw how strong the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

After they got into the boat, the wind died down.

Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying,

"Truly, you are the Son of God."

After making the crossing, they came to land at Gennesaret.

When the men of that place recognized him,  
they sent word to all the surrounding country.

People brought to him all those who were sick  
and begged him that they might touch only the tassel on his cloak,  
and as many as touched it were healed.

---

## **Our Scripture Reflection**

After having fed 5000 people and then another 4000 people; after having raised a dead child; after having restored sight to a blind man and cast out numerous demons from people who were horribly possessed, after having witnessed all these acts that only God could do...why were the Apostles so terrified when they saw Jesus walk on water???? They still had to deal with doubts. Someone once called doubts, "the ants in your pants regarding faith. How true. Without those doubts faith cannot grow stronger, as the Apostles learned long ago.

---

## **Food for your Journey**

"Do not be afraid" means more than "rest easy." It implies something like "take heart," "have courage," "be open and willing to receive what is coming," "get ready for the new thing that God is about to do in your life." It is an invitation to welcome rather than retreat from divine favor and the new future that goes with it. That is not always easy. Easier to stick with the tried and familiar. Easier to complain than to try a new remedy. Easier to live with known disappointments than to venture into unknown possibilities. Easier even to keep fighting the battles that we know than to undertake a whole different approach to living.

—Byron C. Bangert

---

## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, Strengthen my faith so that I can grow through the trials I experience in this life. Keep me humble, faithful and true to You at all times.  
Amen