

More Than a Little Faith

Intro. Do you remember the cartoon with the Coyote and the Roadrunner? The coyote would often chase the roadrunner off a cliff, look down, get an “Uh oh” look on his face and crash. This is the image I get when I read this passage about Peter. When Peter looked down at the water lapping at his ankles, he knew he shouldn’t be able to do this.

I. It was a tough time for the Lord. He went to Nazareth where he was rejected by the people of his hometown. Then he heard that his cousin, John the Baptist, was killed. He got into a boat for some quiet time to mourn his cousin, but the hungry crowd found him. He took care of them by healing their illnesses and multiplying loaves of bread to feed them. This brings us to today’s gospel. Our

translation says the Lord “made” his disciples get into the boat without him. Another translation says he “forced” them into the boat. Either way pretty it was strong action. They wondered what he was going to do. He wanted some time alone. We understand that need and how difficult it can be to find it. From the evening through the fourth watch of the night means he had about eight or nine hours of quiet time and was ready to catch up to the disciples. He rejoined them in a very spectacular way; by walking on the sea. No one does that, so for the disciples this seemed a bad dream; ghosts in the night. I wonder if Peter’s response was false bravado, not expecting to be invited on to the water. “**If** it’s really you, tell *me* to walk on water too.” Whatever bluster or little bit of faith that he had

evaporated and like the coyote in the roadrunner cartoons, he realized he shouldn't be able to do that. At bible study this week, someone asked, why the Lord didn't just disappear from one side of the lake and "poof!" appear on the other side. Why walk on the water and frighten the disciples out of their wits? This was another way for the Lord to reveal himself to all the disciples. He had shown authority over disease and illness and multiplied food; he showed he is the Son of God. Moses *parted* the sea, but the Lord *walked* on it. It was also a test of their faith. Rather than recognizing the Lord, the disciples revert to their usual response to visions and miracles: fear. It's a ghost! Peter found his voice but wasn't very confident. His impulsiveness put him in a tough spot, but to his credit he followed through and got out of the boat. For a brief moment his faith had him

walking on water. Then he took his eyes off the Lord and, as happens when we do that, he started to sink. The Lord immediately rescued him.

Concl. For sometimes good reasons we spend a lot of our lives in safety. There are times we are *invited* out of our safe place into a new job or a new relationship or a new life. Other times we are *forced* out of the boat, thrown into the waters unwillingly. We find out if we are people of *little* faith or *great* faith. With **little** faith God often take us by the hand and rescues us as he has done so many times before. But with **great** faith we recognize God walking with us and do some of the amazing things that God does. Take courage this week in all that we do and recognize the Lord among us.