

8/7/11

**THE PRAYER OF THE DAY** Almighty God, You are Lord in the midst of life's storms and challenges. By your love strengthen and preserve us from all harm and danger that we may cheerfully accomplish what You would have us do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** Job 38:4-18

*(Creation shows that only God is Lord.)*

4 "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. 5 Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? 6 On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone-- 7 while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?

8 "Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, 9 when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness, 10 when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place, 11 when I said, 'This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt'?

12 "Have you ever given orders to the morning, or shown the dawn its place, 13 that it might take the earth by the edges and shake the wicked out of it? 14 The earth takes shape like clay under a seal; its features stand out like those of a garment. 15 The wicked are denied their light, and their upraised arm is broken.

16 "Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep? 17 Have the gates of death been shown to you? Have you seen the gates of the shadow of death? 18 Have you comprehended the vast expanses of the earth? Tell me, if you know all this.

**THE EPISTLE LESSON** Romans 10:5-17

*(Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.)*

5 Moses describes in this way the righteousness that is by the law: "The man who does these things will live by them." 6 But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) 7 "or 'Who will descend into the deep?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

8 But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: 9 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

11 As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." 12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile-- the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." 14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" 16 But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed

our message?" 17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

## THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 14:22-33

*(Jesus shows himself Lord of Creation and strengthens His disciples' faith.)*

22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

25 During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. 27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." 28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." 29 "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" 32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. 33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

22 Kai. euvqe,wj hvna,gkasen tou.j maqhta.j evmbh/nai eivj to. ploi/on kai. proa,gein auvto.n eivj to. pe,ran( e[wj ou- avpolu,sh| tou.j o;clouj

And immediately He led the disciples to embark in the boat and he went ahead to the other side, until the crowd dispersed.

23 kai. avpolu,saj tou.j o;clouj avne,bh eivj to. o;roj katV ivdi,an proseu,xasqaiÅ ovyi,aj de. genome,nhj mo,noj h=n evkei/Å

And having left from the crowd he went up into the mountain by himself to pray, and it was evening and he was alone.

24 to. de. ploi/on h;dh stadi,ouj pollou.j avpo. th/j gh/j avpei/cen basanizo,menon u`po. tw/n kuma,twn( h=n ga.r evnanti,oj o` a;nemojÅ

basanizo,menon Tested, tormented, tossed, buffeted  
evnanti,oj against

And the boat (was) was already many stadia (a far distance) from the earth / shore, having been beaten / buffeted by the waves for the wind was against it.

25 teta,rth| de. fulakh/| th/j nukto.j h=lqen pro.j auvtou.j peripatw/n evpi. th.n qa,lassanÅ

And about the fourth watch of the night (3-6 a.m.) He came to them walking on the sea.

26 oi` de. maqhtai. ivdo,ntej avvto.n evpi. th/j qala,sshj peripatou/nta evtara,cqhsan le,gontej o[ti fa,ntasma, evstin( kai. avpo. tou/ fo,bou e;kraxan

And, having seen him walking on the sea, the disciples were troubled, saying that it is a ghost, and they shook from fear.

27 euvqu.j de. evla,lhsen Iô` Vlhsou/jÐ avvtoi/j le,gwn\ qarsei/te( evgw, eivmi\ mh. fobei/sqe

qarsei/te take courage, be of good cheer

And immediately Jesus spoke to them saying, "Take courage. It is I. Do not be afraid."

28 avpokriqei.j de. avvtw/| o` Pe,troj ei=pen\ ku,rie( eiv su. ei=( ke,leuso,n me evlqei/n pro,j se evpi. ta. u[data

And Peter answered and said to him, "Lord, if it is you (DOUBT), command me to come to you on the water.

29 o` de. ei=pen\ evlqe, kai. kataba.j avpo. tou/ ploi,ou Iô` Ð Pe,troj periepa,thsen evpi. ta. u[data kai. h=lqen pro.j to.n Vlhsou/n

But he said, "Come." And having disembarked from the boat Peter walked on the water and went / came to Jesus.

30 ble,pwn de. to.n a;nemon Iivscuro.nÐ evfobh,qh( kai. avrxo,menoj kataponti,zesqai e;kraxen le,gwn\ ku,rie( sw/so,n me

kataponti,zesqai sink, be drowned

BUT, having seen the (strong) wind he feared, and beginning to sink / drown, he called out saying, "Lord, Save me."

31 euvqe,wj de. o` Vlhsou/j evktei,naj th.n cei/ra evpela,beto avvtou/ kai. le,gei avvtw/|\ ovligo,piste( eivj ti, evdi,stasaj

evdi,stasaj be of two minds, doubt, waver

And immediately, having extended his hand, Jesus took / received him and said to him, "O you of little faith. Why do you doubt / waver

32 kai. avnaba,ntwn avvtw/n eivj to. ploi/on evko,pasen o` a;nemoj

And having gone up (with) them into the boat the wind stopped.

33 oi` de. evn tw/| ploiw| proseku,nhsan auvtw/| le,gontej\ avlhqw/j qeou/ ui`o.j ei=Å

And those in the boat worshiped Him, saying, Truly you are the son of God.

INTRO - Friday I went golfing. Actually, I started golfing as a young pastor in St. Louis. At first I could hit the ball long, but not straight. It would curve or slice to the right. Sometimes sliced to the right so much that at times it seemed to boomerang back towards me. Over the years as I've gotten older I've learned to hit the ball straighter, but now I can't hit it far anymore. I've taken lessons, practiced what I was taught. The ball goes straight, but now it doesn't go very far. So, on Friday I played in a golf Kiwanis tournament and my children were on my team. At times I was out driven by my oldest son, by my youngest son, and by my daughter. I enjoy playing. Sometimes even with my shortcomings my score is not too bad. But, in spite of all my best efforts I still fall short of what I would like to do.

I. Actually, I think it is because I fall short on so many occasions that I really appreciate Simon Peter. He is so human. But, even when he tries to follow Jesus faithfully, he often fell short.

A. Today's Bible account is one of my favorite Bible stories for that reason.

1. Peter and the disciples had been with Jesus for about 2 years, but when Jesus came to them walking on water, even though they had just seen him feed 5000 people, they didn't recognize Him.

2. When Peter figured out that the person walking on the water was Jesus, he wanted to join Jesus on the water. We don't know why. Maybe Jesus inspired Peter. Maybe there was some pride involved. But following Jesus is about believing and loving much more than it is about walking on water. Even Peter's best efforts ended up falling short.

3. When Peter did get out of the boat he was distracted by the storm around Him. The wind and waves made Him forget that Jesus loved him, that Jesus was walking on water. The troubles caused him to be more sure about the storm, than Jesus. He doubted Jesus .

4. Even in one of moments when Peter was trying to follow Jesus He fell short.

B. There are many words in Scripture which talk about sin.

1. People trespass or transgress the law of God, stepping over the line.

2. People rebel and intentionally do what God has forbidden.

3. But, the most common word used in the Greek New Testament for sin, 'harmartano', means 'to miss the mark, or fall short.'

C. You see, part of the struggle we have in life is that even when we try to do God's will, even when we try to live as a child of God, even when we try to live a holy life we so often fall short.

II. So as I golfed on Friday. As I make mistakes, I scold or even at times holler at myself. "O Jonathan!" What happens when someone disappoints you? Do you keep quiet? Do you let

them know about their failure or even scold them? Do you stay away from them?

- A. What did Jesus do when Peter fell short in his efforts to put his discipleship in action.
  - 1. In the middle of Peter's failures Jesus reached out to Him.
  - 2. Jesus was patient with Him.
  - 3. Jesus forgave Him.
  - 4. In the middle of Peter's failures Jesus loved Peter!
  
- B. For the last couple of weeks we have been talking about how Christians are called to live lives that are different from the rest of the world.
  - 1. It is Jesus whose undeserved love, whose unexpected forgiveness, whose faithfulness in the face of our failure that makes a difference.
  - 2. You see, Jesus makes us different.

CONCLUSION - Friday we did not win the tournament. We didn't lose either, but we had lots of holes that were not what we wanted. We could have quit because we knew we weren't going to win. But, there was a joy in play with family, in trying to improve, and we kept going. The last two holes we even parred.

God calls us to lives of obedience and faith, lives of love and discipleship. We don't keep going because we are perfect and always successful. We keep going because God's love is always there for us, even amid the storms of life.

## Prayers

### Thanks -

- Kristin and Kevin,
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- Peter

### Grief

- Nancy Reaves

### III

- Bob Thomas
- 
- Joe Maddy
- Lyla Cornelius
- Vi Folsom
- Thomas Sullivan
- **LeRoy Jenson**
- Anna Mae Shackelford
- Others . . . on our hearts and minds

### COUNTRY

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- Safety for those Serving in Harm's Way  
Andrea Falkenburg

### Church

- Persecuted Christians