

**Wednesday, March 25, 2020**  
**Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...**

## **"Practicing Jesus Focusing"**

"And Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, 'Lord, save me.' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, 'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?' And when they got into the boat, wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'"

There is a new term in our vocabulary these days ... it's called "Social Distancing." At least it's new to me. I had never heard it used before. We are being told to practice "Social Distancing" in an effort to drastically lessen the likelihood of contracting Covid-19. So, by all means, if at all possible, practice "Social Distancing" at much as you are able; if not for your sake, then for the sake of your fellow man.

Christians have always been instructed to practice another habit ALL THE TIME. We might call this habit, "Jesus Focusing!" It's always a good thing to practice "Jesus Focusing," but it is especially good when we are in the midst of the "storms" of life. Peter learned this lesson in a very real way the day he walked on the water! Jesus was already walking on the water when Peter kind of invited himself to join Jesus on the water. Jesus welcomed him to join Him on the water. At first, Peter was no doubt looking at Jesus. First, from the inside edge of the boat ... then as he stepped over the side of the boat one leg at a time, still holding onto the side of the boat. When he noticed that he was not sinking, he let go of the boat, probably letting out a brief nervous laugh of amazement! He took one step, then another, then another ... and before he knew it, he was walking on the water, JUST LIKE JESUS! All the while, practicing "Jesus Focusing!"

But then something happened. For some reason he got a little sloppy in his practice of "Jesus Focusing." He began to practice "Storm Focusing." The Bible says, "But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, 'Lord, save me.'" And Jesus, being Who He is, reached out His hand and saved him. He kept him from sinking further.

We are in the midst of a "storm" right now. It is called "Covid-19." To us it is a scary thing that is taking all of the efforts of some very smart people to rid this storm from our lives. But to Jesus, it is just something that He walks on. Jesus walks in the midst of the storms of our lives without even a hint of fear or anxiety.

We have been wisely instructed to practice "Social Distancing" in order to keep something out of our life ... the coronavirus! The Bible has instructed us to practice "Jesus Focusing" in order to bring certain things INTO our lives. When we practice "Jesus Focusing" we are given things like: peace, strength, assurance, confidence, hope, joy, forgiveness, and perhaps even a hint of fearlessness! Not because we are so powerful, but because we are focused on the One who is mighty! "And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'"