



HEROES OF THE FAITH "Peter" Matthew 14:1-36

No. 3805

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The story of Simon the rugged fisherman, who became a devoted disciple of Jesus and a great church leader, is one full of lessons he learned and the challenges he faced which teach us much about modern day discipleship.

I. The Challenge to Peter's Vision. Matthew 14:13-21

- A. The vision of the Master.
 - 1. Desiring solitude to deal with His own grief.
 - 2. He confronted deep need and ministered to it...
 - 3. Involving His challenged disciples at the same time.
- B. The reaction of the disciples.
 - 1. Unwillingness to accept their responsibility: "send them away!"
 - 2. Phillip: practical but powerless.
 - 3. Andrew: active but apologetic.
- C. The principles to be learned.
 - 1. Human resources...
 - 2. Willingly offered...
 - 3. Divinely empowered...
 - 4. Are more than adequate...
 - 5. To achieve divine ends.

Is my vision broad enough to embrace these principles?

II. The Challenge to Peter's Faith. Matthew 14:22-32

- A. A demonstration of divine ability.
 - 1. What the disciples sank under, he strode over.
 - 2. What they believed determined what they saw. Psalm 77:16-19; Job 9:8
- B. A declaration of profound significance.
 - 1. Take courage.
 - 2. I AM.
 - 3. Don't fear.
- C. A question of penetrating importance.
 - 1. You know who I am.
 - 2. So why did you doubt?

Is my faith strong enough to weather life's storms?

III. The Challenge to Peter's Commitment. John 6:25-29

- A. A challenge: "show us a sign."
- B. A claim: "I am the bread from heaven."
- C. A choice: to carry on or turn back.

Is my commitment deep enough to keep on keeping on?