Speaker: Andrew Millar Date: 1st February 2009 Reading: Matthew 14v22-33

We have all heard of credit crunch with financial problems and economic danger. In these verses, we find a man in dire circumstances, not knowing where to turn turns to the Saviour.

We often end up in difficult circumstances and do not know where to turn. We may look to ourselves, then to friends and family. Here, the only person Peter could turn to was the Lord Jesus.

Every day for the disciples was a miraculous day. They had just witnessed the feeding of the 5000 men with only 5 loaves and 2 fish. The Lord had proved his power as the Son of God; helped the people out and taught disciples a lesson for their life.

What lesson was He teaching? He was able to provide for all their needs. Even when He had gone back to heaven, He would still provide for their daily needs.

The Sea of Galilee is a lake bounded on all sides by land, 8 miles by 12 miles. It is liable to storms. This storm arose and the disciples must have been terrified.

Where was the Saviour when the storm rose? He was in the mountain praying. From there, He could see what was happening and He came down to help them in their need.

God could see mankind in their need and sent His Son. He came down to the cross of Calvary to die so He could save us from sin.

The disciples had come to a point where they could not go back and probably had no hope of going forward. The Saviour comes near to them walking, nothing is impossible for the Saviour. The disciples think they are seeing a ghost. They would not have expected the Saviour to come to them on the water. He tells them not to worry.

Peter appears to have felt the safest place to be was not in the boat but with the Saviour. When he asks, Jesus replies one word "Come". He says the same to you tonight. This word has a world of meaning. He is offering you a safe harbour in the storm.

Peter had to commit to walking out. He committed his life into the Saviour's hands and walked on the water.

We have to put our life in Christ's hands to save us.

Peter should have trusted the Saviour the whole way. He realises that if he sinks then there is no hope. He starts to doubt, and as he doubts he starts to sink.

What is Peter's problem?

Minutes away from death with not long to decide what to do and no obvious means of escape. He is in deep, deep danger. If he did not decide quickly he would lose his life.

None of us know how long we have left. What solutions were available? What could he do?

He could try and save himself and swim back. He could try and rely on the disciples. Even if he got back to the boat, the storm was still round about.

He could turn to the Saviour and ask for help. Peter decided to turn to the Saviour – Jesus was able to save him no matter what. He cries out "Lord, save me".

What was he trying to say?

"Lord" - Jesus was more than a ordinary man. In similar circumstances previously, the disciples had asked "What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!", (Matt 8:27)

"save" - Peter didn't try to tell Him how, He knew He was able.

"me" - It was a personal request. He didn't ask for the disciples. Others can pray for you but you need to request salvation yourself.

Immediately on his call Jesus saved him. If you accept Christ as Saviour tonight He will do it immediately.

Peter did not wait until he was under the water. As soon as Peter realised the danger he cried out. Many are almost persuaded but want life too much. They say they will accept Christ on the death bed. We need the assurance that once we die we will be in heaven.

Do not believe the Hollywood portrayal of hell, the Bible portrays it as an awful place.

"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in thine heart that God has raised Him from the dead thou shalt be saved" (Rom 10:9). You have to admit you have done wrong.

"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom 3:23). If we don't admit sin we call God a liar. We have to believe He has the power.

"The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom 6:23). You can't get more serious than that.

If we can see the danger why don't we react? If you are not a believer tonight you need to cry to the Lord saying "Lord save me".