

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD



August 10, 2014

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 115

Gospel [mt 14:22-33](#)

After he had fed the people, Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening he was there alone. Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. "It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear. At once Jesus spoke to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter said to him in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how strong the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" After they got into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying, "Truly, you are the Son of God."

Spiritual Reflection

As long as Peter kept his eyes on Jesus he stayed afloat. The moment Peter took his eyes off the Lord, Peter began to sink.

Spiritual Question

1. What prevents you from keeping your eyes on the Lord?
2. What are some of the distractions in your life?
3. When was the last time you went off to pray by yourself?
4. What if it had been a ghost?
5. Can you give Peter credit for getting out of the boat while the others remained in the safety of the boat?