

Today's Message: "Closer—Plea"

22 Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. 23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. 25 And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. 26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." 28 And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." 29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." (Matthew 14:22-33, ESV)

Plea (Cry out)

Jesus' Response

"It is a ghost!" (fear)

"Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

"If it is you..." (doubt)

"Come."

"Lord, save me." (little faith)

"Jesus immediately reached out..."

Closer Part 2

Pastor Kent Chevalier

April 9 & 10, 2016

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How can I be sure if it's God?

Triple Confirmation:

1. Does it line up with God's Word, the Bible?
2. Is the Holy Spirit bearing witness within you? (Peace)
3. What is God saying to you through other believers and your spiritual leaders?

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Small Group or Personal Reflection Questions:

1. Have you noticed a difference in your relationship with God as a result of the 'Closer' series? If yes, how would you describe the difference? If no, why do you think you're not encountering God?
2. Share with the group (or journal) some of your other experiences where you have made a plea (cried out) to God in the past. How did God respond to your plea?
3. Do you feel like you can be yourself when you talk with God, or do you feel like you have to be someone you're not? (Perhaps using different words than how you normally talk)
4. Read Matthew 6:5-13. How does this change the way you cry out to God?

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