

Staying
Focused
During
Distractions
Matthew 14:25-33



- This familiar story in God's Holy Word reminds us that Christians can get distracted by the challenges that life offers. Look at Proverbs 29:18 N.L.T.

When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is joyful (blessed) Remember Psalms 1

The point is: when we follow God-Given instructions, we can get through the distractions that come our way. They Are Coming! Matt. 7:24-27



- In this Chapter Jesus had just fed 5000 people with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish
- His disciples had the duty of taking the fish from “The Multiplier,” and distributing them to the people, verse 19, (What a faith-builder that should have been for the disciples too) There were 12 baskets full of fish “left over,” after feeding 5,000 people
- Point: When Jesus uses you to help others in a providential way, that ought to be a faith builder/inspiration builder for you too! Phil. 2:13 “... *For it is God who worketh in you both to will and to do*
- Afterwards, Jesus urged the disciples to get on a boat without Him and go to the other side of the Sea (also known as the Sea of Galilee)
- They obeyed Jesus but later found themselves in a storm

- That same night around 3-4 am, after Jesus had “physically left them,” a storm with blustery winds and waves arose that battered their boat, forcing them away from the shore and increasing their fear.
- Storms can cause you and I to lose focus and worry

Jesus knows that storms keep us up at night! Jesus knows what heavy burdens we carry around!

The devil routinely will “shake us” during trouble. *“If Jesus is your God, couldn’t He have prevented this?”*



Point #1

***Distractions Can
Occur Even When
Following Jesus'
Instructions!***

#2 Jesus Comes to Us In Our Distractions

- Notice that He waits until they are “a considerable distance” (N.I.V.) from the shore before He comes. Luke’s account of this story says that they were about 3 ½ miles from shore
- Jesus could have come earlier. Remember, Jesus is “The Weather Man!” He knew a storm was coming before He sent them away
- Also remember that they had just participated in the miraculous feeding of the 5000. And now *physically*, He wasn’t with them.
- But in the midst of their “troubles,” Jesus comes to His disciples in a way that they will never forget





**Remember
This!**

- **When Jesus comes to aid us in our troubles
He will not contradict the principles of His
word**
- **He will not tell us to gamble to get out of debt**
- **He will not arrange an adulterous situation to
get us out of our marriages**
- **He will not allow us to lie to the I.R.S. in order
to hold on to more money**

Observations

- Is it strange to you that Jesus:
1) Knew they were in trouble?
and 2) Came to them? (they
were following His instructions)
- Isn't that the God we know!

Listen to David:

*God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble
Psalms 46:1*

- So the disciples had faith but
were not immune to the
distractions of life (and neither
are we)



But Peter Shows a Faith That the Others Didn't Have!

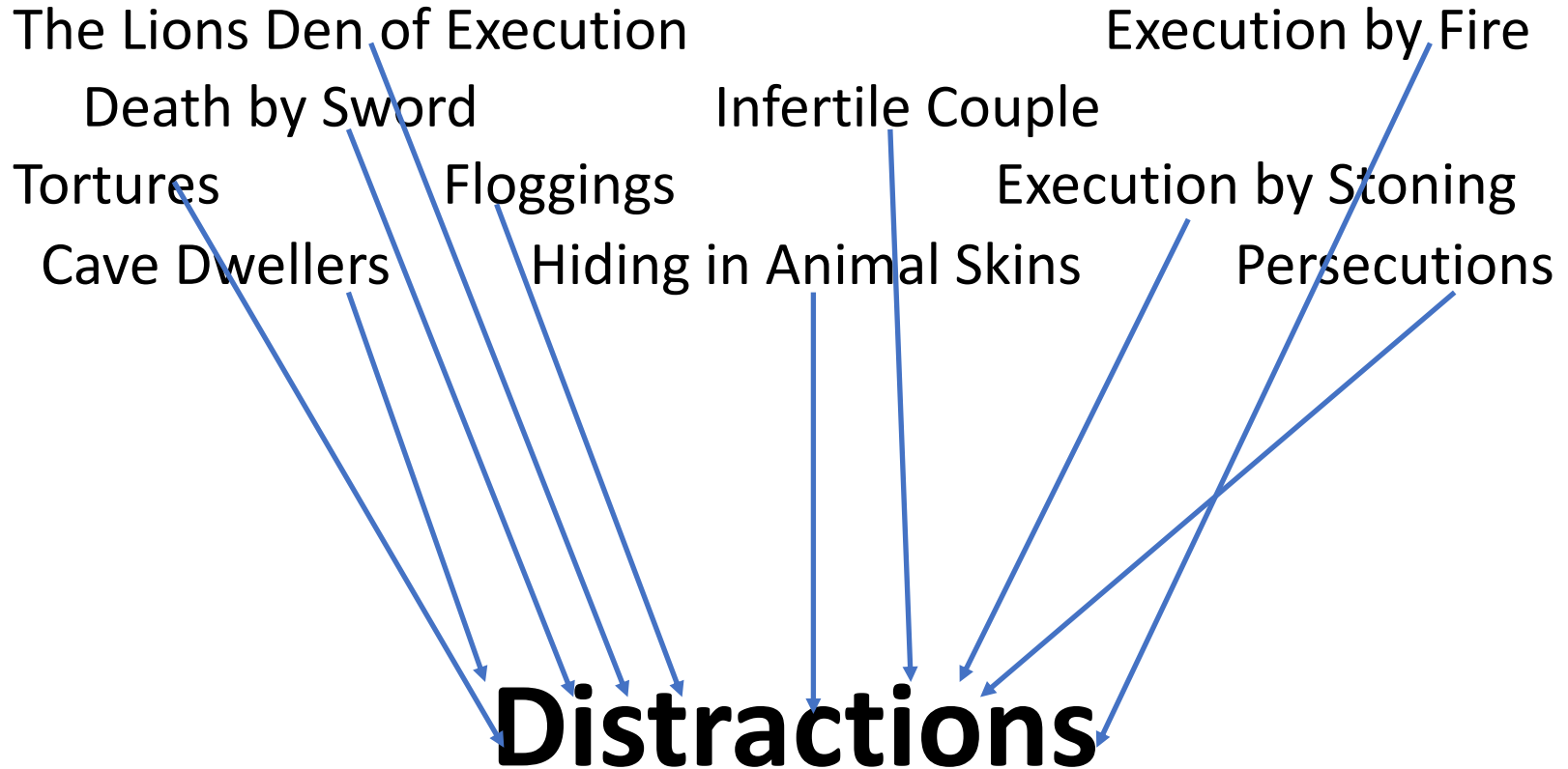
- After Jesus identifies Himself, Peter yells out a question:
- “Lord, if it’s you, tell me to come with you on the water!”
- Remember, Jesus didn’t lift Peter out of the boat (where the trouble was). Peter thought of this request on his own
- In other words, *“Lord if I’m going to be in trouble, let me be with YOU in the midst of my trouble!”* What Bravery!
- Remember: Christians are not immune to the trials and tribulations of this world, but we walk with Jesus while in them
- John 16:33 *“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world you will have trouble: but be of good cheer; I have overcome...”*

So Peter's Courage Gets Him Out of the Boat

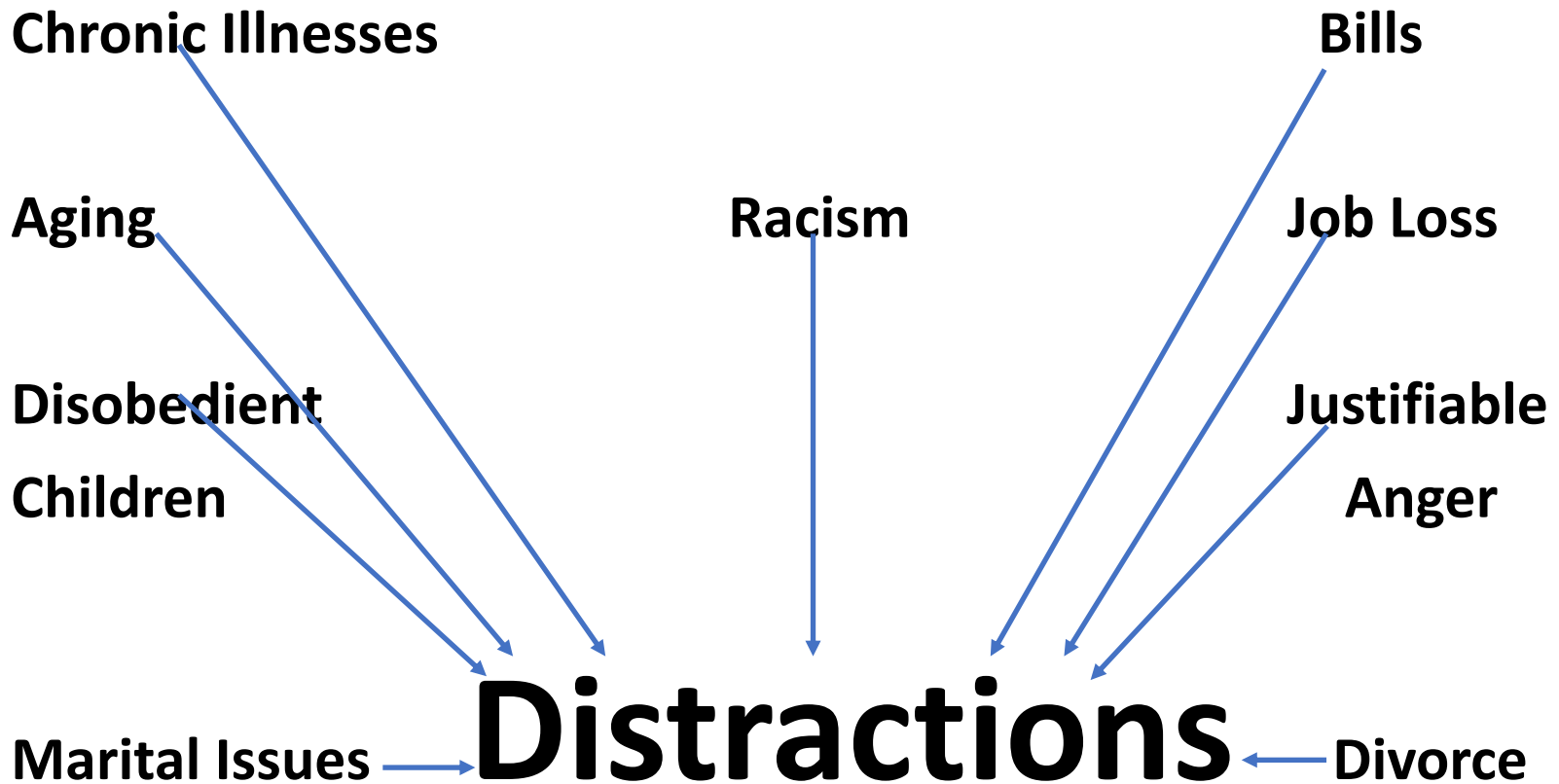
- Jesus says “come,” and Peter walked on water, Matt 14:29; (unique)
- *But what he sees while on the water doesn't enhance his faith (Heb 11:1)*
- When Peter takes his eyes off of Jesus, or loses his spiritual focus, the elements around him accelerate his fears and his faith is at risk
- Christians, when we lose our spiritual focus because of our legitimate everyday concerns and distractions, our faith becomes at-risk too!



Remember the Distractions That Old Testament Heroes Fought Through, Hebrews 11 (HOF)



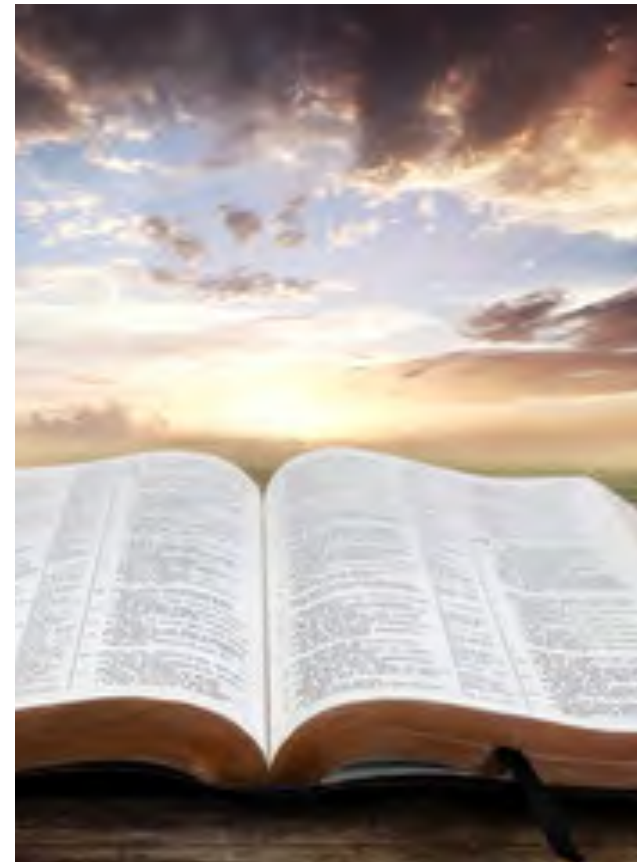
We Can Lose Our Focus Too!



Hebrews 12:1-2

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

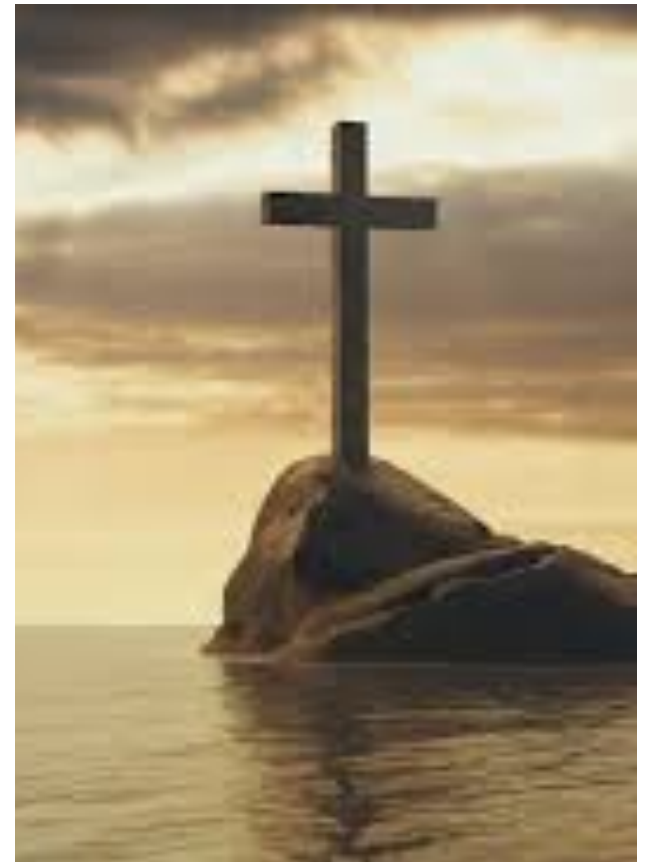
Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.



Proverbs 29:18, N.L.T.

***When people do not accept
divine guidance, they run
wild.***

***But whoever obeys the law
is joyful (blessed).***



The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38