the TAKE HOME 11.01.15

Today's Scripture Passage: Matthew 14:22-36 P 692 Pew Bible

22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. **23** After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, **24** but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. **25** During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. **26** When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. **27** But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." **28** "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." **29** "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. **30** But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" **31** Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" **32** And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. **33** Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." **34** When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret. **35** And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to him **36** and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed.

Questions for Reflection & Discussion

- What am I learning about myself and God through my latest failures?
- How could I honor God in the aftermath of my recent failures?
- How might God want to use me to serve Him and others more effectively because of what I have learned from my failures?

Prayer Prompts

- Use my failures, Dear Lord, to bring me greater revelation of Who You are and what You want to do in and through me.
- As you pick me up out of my failures, help me to honor You with all that I am. Help me to honor You among my Christian friends.
- God, use my failures to make me humble. Mold me into a vessel that can be used to bring healing to those who need it most. Help me to lead out of my weakness and Your strength.

Sermon Notes

Life After Failure: "Learning, Honoring, and Serving God"

What does this story reveal about me and my failures?

- I am susceptible to failure after a great loss.
- I am susceptible to failure after a great victory or miracle.
- In God's will, I will face resistance
- In the storm, I may feel that Jesus isn't there
- When Jesus does show up, I sometimes don't recognize Him
- I want to be near the Lord during storms; I often call out to Him when I am in trouble
- Circumstances and fear often get more of my attention than Jesus. I have little faith…I doubt.

What does this story reveal about God in my failures?

- He understands my grief
- He wants me to rest in prayer and reflect on the ups and downs
- He cares about my storms
- He comes near to me in the storms
- He calls me to draw near to Him in storms
- He doesn't do all the work for me
- He saves me when I call in the middle of failure

What does this story reveal about my Life after failure?

- I <u>learn</u> more through failure than success…after failure I recognize "Jesus is the Son of God."
- When Jesus rescues me from failure, I can <u>honor</u> Him
- After my experience of failure I <u>serve</u> Him more effectively