

Sermon Notes

I. Introduction

- **Passage 1:** Acts 21:11-14 – Paul prepares to go to Jerusalem despite knowing he will suffer.
- **Passage 2:** Matthew 14:22-33 – Peter walks on water toward Jesus but falters when he looks at the storm.
- **Key Theme:** Faith requires obedience, focus on Jesus, and courage to step out of the boat.

II. Key Themes and Discussions

A. Paul's Unwavering Commitment (Acts 21)

- **Paul's Determination:** Despite being warned of the suffering that awaited him in Jerusalem, Paul declared his readiness to suffer and die for the name of Jesus.
- **Application:** Believers should be prepared to obey God's will, even in the face of adversity. Faith requires perseverance.

B. Peter's Leap of Faith (Matthew 14)

- **Jesus Walking on Water:** The disciples were caught in a storm when Jesus approached them walking on water.
- **Peter's Request:** Peter boldly asked Jesus to command him to walk on the water, illustrating his desire to trust Jesus completely.
- **Shift in Focus:** Peter began to sink when he focused on the wind and waves instead of Jesus, highlighting how distractions can derail our faith.
- **Jesus' Rescue:** Jesus immediately saved Peter, showing that even when we falter, Jesus is always ready to lift us up.

C. Lessons on Faith

- **Keep Your Eyes on Jesus:** As long as Peter focused on Jesus, he was able to do the impossible. Similarly, our faith must be fixed on Jesus to withstand life's storms.
- **Trust Over Fear:** Peter's fear caused him to sink, reminding us that fear and doubt can undermine our faith. We must trust Jesus fully to carry us through difficulties.
- **Faith in Action:** Pastor Wes encourages believers to take bold steps of faith, trusting in Jesus' power and presence.

III. Conclusion

- **Reflection:** Like Paul and Peter, we are called to step out in faith, trusting in God's plan and focusing on Jesus in every trial.
- **Encouragement:** Step out of your comfort zone—whether it's a habit, a sin, or a new ministry—and trust that Jesus will sustain you.

Scriptural References

- Acts 21:11-14
- Matthew 14:22-33
- Hebrews 12:2
- Philippians 1:21