

## ***Stepping Away From the Crowd***

By Joe Chesser

Most of us know pretty well the story of Peter walking on water (Matthew 14:22-33). It was an incredible demonstration of faith. Can you imagine actually climbing out of the boat and walking toward Jesus? I mean, the odds were stacked heavily against him. The time was somewhere between 3 and 6 AM, the wind was howling and causing the waves to crash around the boat, they were exhausted from struggling all night to cross the lake, and the disciples were terrified at seeing what they thought was a “ghost” (remember it was just before dawn). Yet, at Jesus’ invitation Peter had the courage and faith to do the irrational – he stepped out of the boat and walked on the water toward Him.

Usually when we think about this story we key in on two things:

- 1) if we keep our eyes on Jesus we can do amazing things, and
- 2) the minute we take our eyes off of Jesus we begin to sink.

Great lessons, but there’s something else in this story worth noticing – the other disciples were still in the boat.

I can’t help but wonder what they were thinking when Peter started to climb out of the boat. Did they encourage him or try to stop him? Did they marvel at his faith or question his sanity? Perhaps they were stunned and speechless. Were they praising God or looking for a life jacket? Were they tempted to get out of the boat, too? There’s a lot we don’t know.

However, there are two things we do know. We know they didn’t get out of the boat, and we know that Peter did. Only Peter had the courage and faith to step away from his peers (the crowd) and head toward Jesus simply because Jesus said, “Come.” Of the group, only Peter walked on water.

I think that’s also what Jesus is asking us to do: “Step away from the crowd, walk on water and come to me.” He’s asking us to step away from the crowded road and walk the narrow path to life (Matthew 7:13-14). He’s asking us to turn away from the unthankful majority and give Him praise even if no one else does (Luke 17:11-19). He’s asking us to leave what’s comfortable and carry His cross (Luke 14:25-27). He’s asking us to stop walking by sight and live by faith (2 Corinthians. 5:7). He’s asking us to give up our trust in money and material things, and seek Him first (Matthew 6:24-33). He’s asking us to quit making excuses and get out of the boat!! He’s asking us to step away from the crowds like Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses and David did (Hebrews 11).

If you had been in the boat with Peter, what would you have done?



That meets at 215 South Thomas Ave, Sayre, PA 18840  
(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

June 11, 2016

### **WELCOME!**

#### Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

#### Wednesday

Bible Class- 6:30 p.m.

### **Today’s Sermon: *Making 3 Pit stops with Joseph***

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

- Bulletins are archived on the website.

**[valleycitieschurchofchrist.org](http://valleycitieschurchofchrist.org)**  
**[aicoc.org](http://aicoc.org)**

**Scripture: Exodus 13:17-32**

**Hymns: 464** Because He lives; **616** The Way of the Cross; **827** Sweet Hour of prayer; **701** My Jesus I Love Thee; **738** Take the Name of Jesus with You;

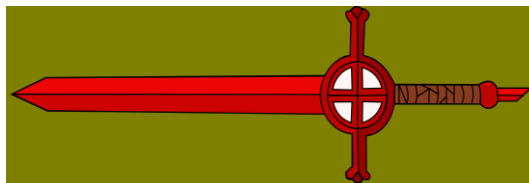
## UPCOMING EVENTS...

**Ladies Class Summer Party, Tuesday, June 28 at 12 noon.** This will be the last meeting of the summer at Sandy's house and will include a dish-to-pass meal.

- **Next Potluck-** June 19<sup>th</sup>. NEXT WEEK!
- The **Christian Town Hall** has been cancelled due to lack of interest. We will try again later.



- **Dave and Lynne Laton** from the Prattville, AL church are spending the month of June in their camper in Tunkhannock while Dave preaches there the first 4 Sundays in the Endless Mountains church.
- Jerry Stumpf from Altoona, PA preached here last Sunday. Several of you expressed an interest in the marriage enrichment program he and his wife Elaine do. We hope to have them come up in the future and do that program for us in this community.



The Sword of the Spirit is not given to us for splitting hairs.

## PRAYERS...

- Lori Kashorek, wife of Doug, the preacher at the church in Plattsburg, has lung cancer and is being treated with chemo. She is doing very well and the chemo seems to be shrinking her tumor.
- Emily Barry has a job! She is thankful that the Red Cross in Ashley, PA has hired her as a phlebotomist. She starts on the 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Please pray for the outreach effort of the Antioch Initiative to start a church in Tunkhannock, PA. Several contacts have been made as the result of a door-knocking campaign this past week.
- Please pray that Darlene makes the right decision about a job opportunity that has come up.
- Patty and Ruthie Albro ask for prayers for their stepmother, Claire, who is receiving chemo and radiation treatments for lung, stomach and kidney cancer. Also for their cousin John in Texas who is on hospice care for his cancer.
- Our family and friends who need to be saved or restored to faith.
- Pray for our country, the upcoming election, and our Christian example to the rest of the world during these times. Help us to take advantage of every opportunity to share the Gospel.
- Cathy Carey asks for prayers for her spiritual strength.
- Kevan Barry is on his way to Kuwait on a mission with the Air Force. Pray for his safety and that of his C-17 crew.

If you have any prayers or news that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy Barry [barncat7237@gmail.com](mailto:barncat7237@gmail.com) or text or call (607) 261-0911.

It is the duty of the preacher not only to comfort the distressed, but to distress the comfortable.

