

Jesus Said, “Don’t Let Go of Me”

We have all heard the story of Jesus walking on the water. In the midst of a storm, Simon Peter gets out of the boat to walk towards Jesus. In a recent Sunday School class, we watched a video from Season 3, Episode 8 of The Chosen, which re-enacted the story. There was an ending to the story that caught me off guard, and drove home a key point.

To set the stage, Jesus and the disciples had just finished the feeding of the 5,000 with five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus went to pray while the disciples started the 8-mile journey by boat, across the Sea of Galilee. A fierce storm appeared, threatening the lives of those in the boat. They were afraid. Just when the situation became desperate, Jesus appeared, walking on the water toward them. The disciples initially thought it was a ghost, but Simon Peter realized it was Jesus. He said, “*Lord, if it is you, command me to walk to you.*” Jesus commanded Simon to walk to him. Simon got out of the boat and was walking on the water when fear overtook him again. Even though Simon was in the presence of the Lord, he began to doubt. He immediately started to sink, so he cried to Jesus, “*Lord, save me*” (Matthew 14:30). Jesus reached down and helped him.



In the video interpretation, after pulling up Simon from the raging sea, they embraced. Jesus said, “Don’t let go of me,” and followed it by reassuring Simon, “I am always here.” We can understand Jesus saying this. We know He promised, “*And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age*” (Matthew 28:20). What captured my attention was Jesus saying, “Don’t let go of me.” Simon needed Jesus and at that critical time, Jesus not only assured him of His presence, but told him to “not let go.” What a powerful message portrayed on the screen! Even after a crisis has passed, Jesus invites us to hold onto Him and not let go.

We may wonder why God allows storms to come into our life. In The Chosen video, Jesus told Simon, “Trials prove the genuineness of faith.” Storms come when we don’t expect it, and they test us. If our faith is genuine, we will trust Him even during the storms of our lives. May your faith be genuine and may you trust Jesus, always.

The Bible tells us, *So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand (Isaiah 41:10)*. We need God to help us through the difficult times of life that we all face, because we know they will come again. *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33)*. Hold onto Jesus and don’t let go.

Question: What are you struggling with in your life that you need to fully trust Jesus?

Prayer: Dear Jesus. We all face trials and tribulations. We pray that our faith will be genuine so that we will trust you to bring us through whatever we face. Help my unbelief, so I can withstand all that I face, and look forward to the life to come. Amen.