

Summary

This sermon focuses on stepping out in faith despite our fears, using the biblical account of Peter walking on water as the central illustration. Pastor Sam emphasizes that while life can feel safe and comfortable during peaceful times, true faith is tested during life's storms - whether economic setbacks, relationship troubles, health concerns, or social pressures. The message highlights that our primary identity is found in Christ, not in worldly achievements or appearances. Drawing from Colossians 3, the pastor explains that as believers, we must 'put off' destructive behaviors like sexual immorality, greed, anger, and lies, while 'putting on' Christ-like characteristics such as compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and love. The sermon concludes with the encouragement that failures are not final with Jesus, and that faith in Christ's presence enables us to face challenges and step out of our comfort zones to represent Him well.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You this morning with grateful hearts, acknowledging that You are the God who has done great things and will continue to do great things in our lives. As we gather together as Your people, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us today. Help us to be receptive to Your Spirit's leading and to step out in faith, even when we face storms and uncertainties. Lord, prepare us to examine our own lives honestly and to embrace the new identity You have given us in Christ. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one thing you've always wanted to try but have been too afraid to attempt?

Key Verses

- Matthew 14:22-33
- Colossians 3:1-4
- Colossians 3:5-14
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4

Questions

- What are some common fears that prevent people from stepping out in faith today?
- How does remembering our identity 'in Christ' help us face life's storms with courage?
- Peter experienced both success (walking on water) and failure (sinking) in the same event. How does this encourage us when we face setbacks in our faith journey?
- What does it mean practically to 'set your hearts on things above' in our daily lives?
- Which of the 'old clothes' mentioned in Colossians 3:5-9 (sexual immorality, greed, anger, malice, slander, lies) do you find most challenging to 'put off'?
- How can we cultivate the Christ-like characteristics of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience in our relationships?
- The sermon mentions that 'failures aren't final with Jesus.' Can you think of a biblical example or personal experience that illustrates this truth?
- How can we encourage one another in our church community to step out of our comfort zones and represent Christ boldly?

Life Application

This week, identify one specific fear or comfort zone that may be holding you back from fully representing Christ. Take one concrete step of faith in that area, whether it's having a difficult conversation, serving in a new way, or sharing your faith with someone. Remember that your identity is secure in Christ, and He promises to be with you even when the 'waves' feel overwhelming.

Key Takeaways

- Faith is tested not in calm waters but during life's storms and challenges
- Our primary identity is found in Christ, not in worldly achievements or appearances
- We must actively 'put off' destructive behaviors and 'put on' Christ-like characteristics
- Failures are not final with Jesus - He offers second chances and continued grace
- Stepping out in faith requires trusting in Christ's presence and promises rather than our own abilities

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the reminder that You call us to step out of the boat and walk by faith, even when the storms of life are raging around us. Help us to remember that our identity is secure in You and that You are always with us. Give us courage to put off the old clothes of sin and to put on the beautiful garments of Your character - compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and love. When we face fears and uncertainties this week, remind us that You are greater than any storm we may encounter. May we represent You well in all we do and say. In Your precious name we pray. Amen.