

*I was on the side of the rock climbing wall. Scared to death. Gripping the rocks for dear life, too afraid to move up or down or side to side. I hung there for what seemed like forever before I finally was able to move off to the side and reach a safety ladder. The journey of salvation is like that.....exciting, sometimes scary, always unpredictable, but the greatest adventure we could ever ask for. **James Chandler***

Shortly before dawn 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. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me! Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" Matthew 14:25-31 NIV

All of us, myself included, like things to go smoothly without any problems. The other piece in that is that if there is something to be done, or a problem to be solved, we'd all like it to be a quick and painless as possible. In fact sometimes we might not tackle a problem or a project because the "process" to get there is really going to stretch us.

Last winter I joined a local singing group. When I went to the first rehearsal, I liked the music, but when I got home I was tired and worn out. I don't need this, I thought, it's too much for me to do. I did drop out at first, using the rationale that I had too much to do, so I couldn't be bothered.

The problem was that I knew I really liked doing this, so I finally decided to go back. Funny, it really wasn't any easier for my schedule, and I still felt a bit worn out at the end of the rehearsals. But when the concerts rolled around, and we sang, it was a wonderful experience. The enjoyment of singing in musical group again, far outweighed my grumbling about rehearsals and being tired.

Peter had the opportunity to walk on the water with Jesus. Looking at his circumstances instead of at Jesus, he almost drowned. He concentrated more on the wind and the waves rather than concentrating on Jesus and walking on the water.

When we follow God we are on a journey of life. In that journey there should be forward motion, growth and sometimes downright excitement about the possibilities God places before us. But we also shouldn't be surprised that to get those possibilities, it might be hard work, scary, maybe even downright painful.

Yet the end result if rooted in God, will always be well worth that process. Jesus followed his Father's plan with singular purpose, and yes, it did lead to rejection and the cross, but the end result was the resurrection.

God has a good plan for you, God has a path for you to take. You might even have a sense of what that is right now. Take that path. There is no guarantee how you will get here, just know that at the end of the day the goal will always be well worth it!

Pr. John Van Haneghan