

Short Talk

(SHT216)

**Keep your eyes on
Jesus!**

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ALL AGE WORSHIP
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SHORT TALK: “Keep your eyes on Jesus!”

- Aim of Short talk:** To encourage people to keep their eyes on Jesus so that they can walk obediently with Him.
- Use of Short talk:** This is a short All Age talk picking out one issue from the Lectionary Gospel reading of the Sunday main service. The talk stands alone and assumes that the Gospel Bible reading may not yet have been read to the congregation. It could be used for example, for the whole congregation before the children go out to their age specific groups, leaving the adults with a full sermon later.
- Main themes:** Fear, Faith, Trust, Obedience
- Biblical references:** Matthew 14:22-33
- Lectionary:** Year A – The 9th Sunday after Trinity
- Props:** You will need:
- a large piece of blue material or a blue worship flag to wave around (for the “waves”)
 - a loud howling wind sound effect¹

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One morning, out on the Sea of Galilee, Peter, one of Jesus’ disciples, received a big lesson in trusting Jesus.

- It all began with Jesus walking across the sea towards the fishing boat that the disciples were in.
- After the disciples realised that Jesus wasn’t a ghost, Peter asked Jesus if he could join Him.
- When Jesus said “Come”, Peter got out of the boat and walked towards Jesus.
- Imagine that, walking on water.....how incredible is that?

But then Peter listened to the wind, which may have sounded a bit like this. *(play a few seconds of the loud howling wind sound effect)*

- He looked down at the waves splashing around his feet. *(wave your piece of blue material around to look like waves)*
- Suddenly, Peter was very afraid and started to sink.

Peter cried out to Jesus for help and Jesus reached out His hand and caught people and said to Him: “*You of little faith.....why did you doubt?*” (Matthew 14:31)

¹ You can find the sound effect from YouTube at www.youtube.com by putting “Loud howling wind sound effect” in the search bar.

When Peter kept his eyes upon Jesus, he was able to do something that humanly he wouldn't normally be able to do....

- walk on water.

But when Peter took his eyes off Jesus and looked at the wind and the waves,

- he became afraid and started to sink....

Sometimes Jesus invites us to do things that humanly are not at all easy.

- Imagine Jesus asks you one day to go and share your faith with your best friend.

To begin with, while you are focusing on Jesus and what He is saying to you, you might think, *"yes I will do that. It isn't easy but I will trust Jesus to help me."*

- But then you start to listen to the thoughts in your head, which are a bit like wind and waves. *(play your wind howling sound effect while you talk and wave your piece of blue material)*
- You might think things like:
 - *"I can't possibly do that."*
 - *"I might lose a friend."*
 - *"I don't want to make a fool of myself"*
- Before long, you feel really afraid and you don't do what Jesus has asked us to do. *(Stop wind sound effect and waving blue material)*

If you had kept your focus upon Jesus rather than on the thoughts in your head,

- you could have shared your faith with your friend.....which may well have been exhilarating, like walking on water!

On another day, imagine that Jesus asks you to give a large amount of money away to a Christian project that needs help.

- To begin with, while you are focusing on Jesus, your heart is willing to give money.
- But then you start to listen to the thoughts in your head, which are a bit like wind and waves. *(play your wind howling sound effect while you talk and wave your piece of blue material)*
- You might think things like:
 - *"I can't possibly do that."*
 - *"I might need that money for a rainy day"*
- Before long, you feel really afraid and you don't do what Jesus has asked us to do. *(Stop wind sound effect and waving blue material)*

If you had kept your focus upon Jesus rather than on the thoughts in your head,

- you could have given money to the project.....which may well have been exhilarating, like walking on water!

So today, let me encourage you to keep your focus upon Jesus.

- When He asks you to do something that isn't naturally easy, don't listen to the voices in your head,
- but keep your focus upon Him and enjoy walking by faith!