

Pastor's Corner

October 2012 – Rev. Eric Lane

Many of you know my love for riding motorcycles. When riding a motorcycle, it is vital to not only focus on the road in front of you, always scanning for potential hazards (in North Carolina that seems to be pot holes); but you must always be planning how to deal with the hazards that you might encounter.

So, not only must you focus on the road ahead, but you must always be aware of everything around you, and even behind you. Too often a rider is injured or even killed when someone pulls out from a side road, or fails to stop and runs into the rear of the bike. Therefore, to ride as safely as possible, you must remain alert and focused.

In the Gospel of Matthew (14:22-33) is the story of Peter, who saw Jesus walking on the water, and asked Jesus if he could walk out to him. Just imagine how strongly Peter's eyes were focused on Jesus when he took those first steps on the water. But then Peter let the wind and the waves distract him; he lost his focus and, suddenly, Peter began to sink.

As I reflect back on my life, I see those times when I let "things" distract me from maintaining my focus on Christ. And, like Peter, I too began to sink into the sea of life as the waves came crashing in around me.

Often, when we encounter problems along life's path, or face health problems, financial hardships, relationship problems, or lose a loved one; we can become distracted, which causes us to lose focus. Though Jesus reminds us not to worry, we still do.

When Peter realized that he was sinking, he cried out to Jesus, "Lord, save me!" That is a lesson we all need to learn for those times when life deals us a bad hand. "Lord, save me!" The Scripture says that Jesus "immediately reached out his hand and caught him."

Jesus will never let you down. Our focus in life is important, and our spiritual focus is of greater importance. The next time you are feeling overwhelmed, and feel as if you are going down; turn your eyes upon Jesus. He will reach out to you and bring you safely back into his presence.

No matter what you are facing, with the help of Christ, you can make it through. "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me..." Psalm 23:4a

Blessings