

# Thought for a Wednesday

January 6, 2010

Yesterday I was driving down past Saratoga Lake and as I looked out the passenger window I saw two men out on the lake ice fishing. They were sitting there on what looked like either two chairs or benches with their shelter (blue tarp) beside them; they were probably 200-300 yards from shore. I thought to myself, "I didn't realize the ice was thick enough this early in January..." As I continued to drive around the lake I noticed several "open water" spots dotting the ice and another thought occurred to me, "Those guys are crazy!"

But that scene yesterday brought to mind two thoughts for me: (1. Was the picture of Peter's water-walking exploits in Matthew account...

About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "*It's a ghost!*" But Jesus spoke to them at once. "*Don't be afraid,*" he said. "*Take courage. I am here!*" Then Peter called to him, "*Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water.*" "*Yes, come,*" Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "*Save me, Lord!*" he shouted. Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "*You have so little faith,*" Jesus said. "*Why did you doubt me?*" (Matthew 14:25-31, NLT)

If you look at Peter's life in the Gospels and with the exception of his denial at Jesus arrest and trial, Peter was a guy who knew how to take some risks! I mean, my question is, where were the other 11 guys? I'll tell you where they were – In the corner of the boat hiding for fear of their lives! Peter to me gets too much of a bad rap in this story, I mean, at least he got out of the boat!

There was another thought that came to mind: (2. Would I have been bold enough to walk out on the ice? Would I have gotten out of the boat and walked on water? Honestly, I'd have to answer with "No" to both questions – I'd be the one safe on the shoreline, I'd be the one huddled in the corner of the boat, in a fetal position with my head covered – Why? Because of fear, because I don't like change, I don't want to risk; maybe even because of an unhealthy outlook on life, or in whom I place my confidence and trust...

How about you? You know, I have no idea what (as in details) 2010 will hold for any of us; personally or as a community of faith called NLF. I can certainly tell you this, 2010 will be filled with difficulties, rough roads, obstacles, storms, high wind and waves – It will certainly be filled with joys, pleasures, answers to prayer, miracles and God's wonder provision for our lives... I know for certain that 2010 will be a year that as a church we will face some opportunities that will require faith-filled risks to believe God for things we don't necessarily think possible. We will have to say no to some things, and step out of boat in others if we're ever going to walk on water.

I can't wait to see what God has in store for us, personally and corporately – I hope you're looking forward to that as well. Yesterday is over, today is now and tomorrow is full of opportunities to see God's mighty hand at work in our lives. I'm looking forward to another year with you – I hope you feel the same!

**Be Strong, Be Courageous, Be Fearless – and remember...**

Christ IS All!

*Pastor Mark*