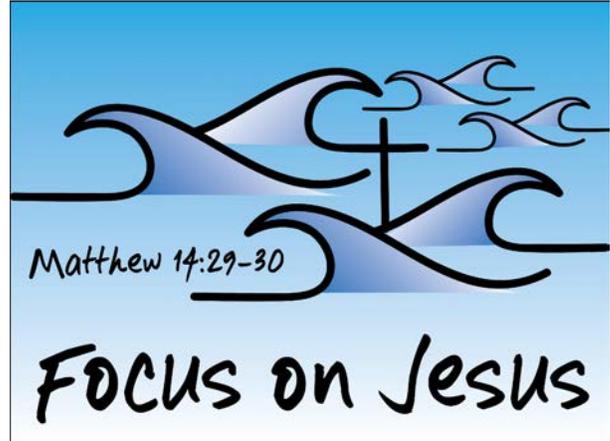


“Focus on Jesus!”

Matthew 14:29-30

“See Me,” “Focus on Me!” Those are the words that keep coming to my mind, over and over, for the past two years. My response, “Okay Lord, I’m looking at You. Now what?” He says, “See Me, in every situation, in the people around you, SEE ME. Stop looking at the waves, the problems, the things you want to change, and focus on ME.” Is that as difficult for you as it is for me?

So now I’m focused, on Jesus, here is what I see: Do not judge(condemn, criticize), or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you (Matt 7:1-2). He didn’t judge the tax collectors, He invited them to join Him (Matt. 9:9-10, Luke 19:1-9). The man beside the Pool of Bethesda, the woman caught in adultery, Jesus didn’t condemn them, after He rescued them He told them to “sin no more” (John 5:14b, John 8:11b). He said people would know we are His by the way we love one another, and others (John 13:34-35, Matt. 5:44-45).



The way I understand it is I, we, are to “become love” (Bob Goff’s book: Everybody, Always). That’s what the Trinity is all about, Love.

Oh, yeah, about becoming love, it comes with getting out of the boat. Peter wanted to walk on water, with Jesus. The only way to do that is to get out of the comfort zone. I love my comfort zone, but if I love it more than Jesus then my comfort becomes an idol. God is a jealous god, He hates idols. If we stay where we’re comfortable the world won’t see the love that God planned to show through us.

At District Conference 2018 we will have an opportunity to hear from brothers and sisters who have gotten out of the boat in Las Vegas and Los Banos. People who have gone to minister through Children’s Disaster Services and Brethren Disaster Ministries will be around to share their experiences. Ask them how God has enriched their lives through their experiences. I hope to see you at Conference in November.

God is calling each of us to get out of the boat in some way, but we will miss the call if we’re not focused on Jesus.

Karen B. Pierson

Moderator

Logo Creation



The 2018 logo and book marks were designed by Eric M. Davis to reflect the theme “Focus on Jesus.” Karen’s cousin, Eric is an artist and marketing professional, who operates Eric M. Davis Studio, LLC in La Verne, California. While in La Verne you can enjoy Eric’s work at the *Fourth Street Mill*, 2124 Bonita Avenue.

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