

Hope Presbyterian Church
Sermon-Based Bible Study

March 1, 2026

“Rescue Me From Danger”

#2 in the series

Wandering Heart:

Figuring Out Faith with Peter

Scripture Text

Matthew 14:22-33 (NRSVUE)



1. The sermon titles in this Lenten series are drawn from the familiar hymn, *Come Thou Fount*, with this week’s message entitled “Rescue Me From Danger.”
 - Have you ever been in a situation when you felt you were in physical or psychological danger?
 - Did your spiritual faith influence how you were able to navigate that situation? How?
2. **Read Matthew 14: 22-27.**

Consider how these verses describe Jesus’ and the disciples’ actions following a long day of teaching during which they fed a large crowd from a boy’s small lunch of five loaves and two fish.

 - What do we learn about Jesus’ care for his spiritual well-being as well as that of his disciples?
 - After witnessing the miracle of feeding the five thousand, why do you think the disciples were terrified to see Jesus walking on the water of the stormy sea?
3. **Read Matthew 14: 28-31.**

Despite the fearful sight of Jesus walking on the water, Peter pleads with Jesus to join Him.

 - What do you think motivated Peter’s bold request?

Two Greek words help explain what happened when Peter ventured out onto the water but then began to sink:

 - *Blepo* - to fix one’s gaze upon
 - *Distazo* - to stand in two places; to have a divided focus
 - What caused Peter’s “divided focus” as he walked toward Jesus?
 - How do you interpret Jesus’ words when He rescues Peter, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” Was he scolding him or saying something else?
4. **Read Matthew 14: 32-33.**

When Peter and Jesus return to the boat, and the storm subsides, there is a sense of return to calm and community.

 - What can cause our gaze to drift from Jesus - to divide our focus?
 - How does this episode in Peter’s wandering heart help us at Hope to understand our role in providing rescue and community to those whose hearts may be wandering?
5. How can we pray for you?