

YOU CALL ME OUT UPON THE WATERS

-Ryan Parsons-

I can remember a few times in my life when the circumstances around me made me feel like I was going to throw up. Why? It was because in those times I had felt a conviction that I needed to do something difficult, and I needed to step out beyond my own power and means to try and get it done. Those times were more terrifying than anything else I have experienced, and trust me, I have some scary stories.

The first time was when I stepped out of a transport in Grand Bay, Dominica to teach people the Gospel. Another time was when I walked away from my career to be a full-time minister. One of the most memorable was the time we agreed to take not one, but two infant foster sons.

In each instance I felt like arrogant Peter tempting Jesus to invite me out onto the waters (Matthew 14:22-33). When He did, I stepped out, albeit hesitant, pretending to be confident and wishing I had not challenged Him. No doubt, I met moments when the wind and waves distracted me. At other times, I felt helpless and afraid...drowning. However, I am here today because of Jesus, and my life is not the same (nor what I planned).

We recently shared the song "Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)" in our worship service online. For some reason the lyrics keep playing in my mind. As we navigate through this unprecedented time searching for the "new normal," I feel that God is calling us out to do radical Kingdom things that we are powerless to do alone.

*Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders
Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger
In the presence of my Savior*

Even though I don't know exactly what it is right now, that nauseating feeling in my stomach is rising. Yet, I am reminded:

*Your grace abounds in deepest waters
Your sovereign hand
Will be my guide
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me
You've never failed and You won't start now*

In the silence and loneliness of this storm, we are left only to listen, trust, and answer.

I pray that we all would have the divine courage to do whatever, whenever, and wherever when Jesus calls. May safety and comfort disappear from our longing, and let us be led unhindered by the Spirit of God!

Psalm 143:10

*Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God;
may your good Spirit
lead me on level ground.*