

THE REAL DANGER

THREE AREAS OF CONCERN

❖ **Our current situation**

- ✦ Terrorist attacks on our own soil
- ✦ Racial tension - way too much over generalization
- ✦ Political turmoil

❖ **The fourth concern - The Church losing our focus (*Matthew 5:13-16 NKJV*)**

- ✦ Salt was an ancient preservative - have to stay salty
- ✦ Light has to shine to value others - seen in our good works

A LESSON IN FOCUS (*Matthew 14:25-32 NKJV*)

❖ **Jesus never intended to cause fear**

- ✦ He responded immediately - because He cared and knew fear was not of God

❖ **Peter was empowered by Jesus' word**

- ✦ Acting on that one word enabled him to do the impossible

❖ **Peter lost focus - the biggest problem (not the storm)**

- ✦ When he stopped looking at Jesus and started looking at the storm
- ✦ Fear gripped him and he started to sink
- ✦ Jesus was gracious and immediately rescued him

THE REAL DANGER - LOSING OUR FOCUS

❖ **We don't have to lose focus**

- ✦ Keep looking to His word and what He has said to us

❖ **The danger of losing focus**

- ✦ We lose a sense of our true identity (*Colossians 3:10-11 NKJV*)
- ✦ We lose our grip on the faith that we need to navigate the storms (*Hebrews 12:2-3 NKJV*)
- ✦ We respond like people without God (*1 Corinthians 3:3 NKJV*)

❖ **There is a way we can respond positively and have an impact (*2 Chronicles 7:14 NKJV*)**

- ✦ Humble ourselves - realizing the answer is not in us
- ✦ Pray - we call on God and ask for His involvement
- ✦ Seek His face - we keep our focus on Him not the problems
- ✦ Turn from our wicked ways - we will not respond in the same "spirit" as the world - not part of the problem