

July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Wednesday Encouragement

Anthony Hott

I'm easily distracted.

There I said it, and admission is the first step in the process. I've always been distracted. I like to call it being a "dreamer." I focus on something for a bit, then move on. It's probably why I like video games, because in the video games I usually play I can start my character over, try something new or even just switch games. My progress will be saved anyway.

I wonder, do we get distracted in our faith? I know I've written and talked about this before. Actually, I touched on this way back in the beginning of these encouragements. I don't like to repeat myself but so much has happened over these past few months from church closing to professional sports (actually all sports for the most part) being canceled or delayed. We've had murder hornets (what happened to those anyway?) to protests. We've gone through the gauntlet since March and I have to wonder: Are we more distracted from our faith now than we were?

My answer? Yes, I am. I'm only human. I want to keep my eyes on Jesus, but I think I'm more like Peter.

***Peter answered him, "Lord, if it's you, order me to come to you on the water." Jesus said, "Come on!" So Peter got down out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came to Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he was frightened. As he began to sink, he shouted, "Lord, save me!" At once Jesus reached out his hand, caught him, and asked him, "You who have so little faith, why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14:28-31)***

Satan's got my number, y'all. I get a moment of clarity; I see Jesus amongst the waves. I'm walking out towards him, then the wave of "cancelled youth events", "ruined summer plans", or "will my kids ever go back to school?" crest and then I start to sink. And I mentally shout to God "What do I do?"

I've been trying to focus on Hebrew 12:1-3:

***Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup>fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup>Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.***

We can't start this year over, we can only focus on Jesus. We've entered a hard, painful, and lonely stage of our race, but we aren't alone even when we feel like we are. Let's learn a lesson from Peter and not be distracted by the waves, but focus on the one who commands them.

Anthony