

Abstract

Peter's faith in the context of Jesus's epiphany on the sea. Analysis of an excerpt from the gospel according to Matthew 14, 22 – 33 with respect to the experience of faith of the Apostle Peter.

The study deals with the analysis of an excerpt from the gospel of Matthew about Jesus's epiphany on the sea (Mt. 14, 22 – 33) with regard to actions of the Apostle Peter.

The first part is dedicated to the text of the pericope itself, its origin, placement and function in the gospel of Matthew. Literary and textual analysis is performed mainly by comparison with analogical excerpts from other gospels, especially the gospel of Mark. Due to this, the unique message of Matthew's gospel, which is Peter's behaviour as the answer of faith to the manifestation of Jesus's divinity, is revealed. The evangelist thus unravels a vast composition about the church.

The figure of the Apostle Peter, his role and meaning within the whole text of the gospel is the subject of the second part of the thesis. The picture of the first disciple is characterized not only by an exemplary faith, but also by a failure and an example of human weakness. This fact leads to the question about what was the goal that the evangelist followed by describing the negative aspects of Peter's actions.

The third part deals with the fundamental traits of spirituality characterized by the experience of human paltriness and humility. Using a brief indication of the teachings of great saints like Therese of Lisieux or John of the Cross, the thesis wants to show that the journey of the first Apostle has similar features and concludes that Peter's fragility plays an important role for the journey of a disciple who had been given a foremost task within the community of Jesus's followers. By doing that, Peter joins many other biblical figures who are described as weak and sinful but who are despite of it, or maybe because of it, called to fulfil God's intentions. Together with them, Peter represents an example of faith that is inspirational also for us.

Keywords

Epiphany, Jesus Christ, Peter, faith, Gospel according to Matthew.