

The \$64,000 Question



YOU ARE THERE, an early tv series, blended history with modern technology, taking a network newsroom on a figurative time warp reporting the great events of the past. The first episode on February 1, 1953 featured a re-enactment of the Hindenburg disaster. Yes, I remember it well!

AS YOU READ THE PASSAGE BELOW IMAGINE: YOU ARE THERE!

The boat was far out to sea when the wind came up against them and the disciples were battered by the waves. At about four o'clock in the morning, Jesus came toward them walking on the water. They were scared out of their wits. "A ghost!" they said, crying out in terror. But Jesus was quick to comfort them. "Courage, it's me. Don't be afraid." Peter, suddenly bold, said, "Master, if it's really you, call me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." Jumping out of the boat, Peter walked on the water to Jesus.



THE \$64,000 QUESTION premiered June 7, 1955. Contestants chose a subject category (such as "Boxing", "Lincoln" or "Jazz"). The contestant would then be asked questions only in the chosen category, earning money which doubled (\$64, \$128, \$256 to \$512, then \$1,000, \$2,000, \$4,000, \$8,000, \$16,000, \$32,000 to \$64,000) as the questions became more difficult.

HERE'S THE \$64,00 QUESTION: WHERE ARE YOU: IN THE BOAT OR ON THE WATER.

Obviously, the boat represents man-made control and security: power, wealth, status, stamina, sex, cultural norms, spiritual beliefs and behavior. However, Erich Fromm cuts through this boat facade: *Whoever insists on safety and security as*

primary conditions of life makes himself a prisoner.” John Elderidge nails the point: Security is not found in the absence of danger, but in the presence of Jesus.

**For each one the song below is an invitation to ponder
“The \$64,000 Question”.**