



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

9 August 2020

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Matthew 14:22-33 (NIV)

Jesus Walks on the Water

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd.

²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.

²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

²⁸ "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

²⁹ "Come," he said.



Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.

³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Other Lectionary Reading for this week:

Genesis 37 : 1-4, 12-28

Psalms 105 : 1-6, 16-22, 45b

Romans 10 :5-15



Matthew 14:22-33 Peter walks on water

Hope got Peter out of the boat.

Trust held Peter up.

Fear sank him.

Everything depended on whether Peter was focussed on Jesus, or on the storm.

Some people may see this as a story about failure. I see it as a success story. Sure, Peter only walked a short distance across the water.... but what a walk, and what an experience! I'm certain that Peter could look back on that experience until the day he died, and feel proud that he had trusted Jesus sufficiently to get out of the boat, and begin to walk towards him.

There were 11 onlookers still in the boat, terrified of the "ghost" they saw approaching them. Peter was the only one who showed Jesus that he trusted him that much.

A question for us to ponder – What am I doing that I could not do apart from the power of God? If the answer is, "Nothing", then perhaps we haven't been developing our faith muscle very much.... we have chosen not to get out of the boat. We may have let fear have the last say.

Apparently there are 366 verses commanding us to "Fear Not", scattered throughout the bible. Fear is the number one reason why people are tempted to avoid doing what God asks them to do. So when Peter focussed on the wind, and began to be afraid, he was just like everyone else in the world.

To run the race – to give it your best, and not to gain first place – that's painful. But it isn't failure. Failure is refusing to run the race at all.

Peter walking on water is about a win/win situation. Getting out of the boat was Peter's great gift to Jesus; the experience of walking on water was Jesus' great gift to Peter !

What gifts does God have in mind for you? ~ Meg

Don't let your
age get you
down. It's
far too hard
to get back
up again.



"Go out on a limb - that's where the fruit is!"

~ Jimmy Carter

Daniel slept in a lions den

Peter slept in a prison

Jesus slept in a storm

No matter your circumstance, you
can experience real rest by having
confidence in God's control

..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus



IN OUR PRAYERS

- Please pray for an end of the Covid19 epidemic; for wisdom, for scientific breakthroughs, and for restraint.
- We pray for Marg Crowell who has several health issues at the moment.
- We pray that Peter Scorgie's heart surgery, now scheduled for 18th August, is able to proceed.
- We give thanks that we were able to worship together for five weeks, and we pray that we are able to do so again before long.
- We pray for family members; our own families, and the families of our church family.
- Perhaps it has something to do with the age group of our congregation, but we pray for each member with health issues, or recovering from health problems.

Meg's Musings

This was going to be part of our service on Sunday. It would be wonderful if each of us could read it aloud this Sunday, and any other opportunity you may have:-

I live today, allowing God's strength to pilot me:

God's might to uphold me,
 God's wisdom to guide me,
 God's eye to look before me,
 God's ear to hear me,
 God's word to speak for me,
 God's hand to guard me.

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
 Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
 Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
 Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise.

Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
 Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
 Christ in every eye which sees me,
 Christ in every ear that hears me.

I live today
 Through the mighty strength of God.

From, "If You Want To Walk On Water, You Have To Get Out Of The Boat" ~ by John Ortberg (amended)

To patterns of behaviour that never get confronted and changed,
 Abilities and gifts that never get cultivated and used -

Until weeks become months
 And months turn into years,
 And one day you're looking back on a life of
 Deep intimate gut-wrenchingly honest conversations you never had;

Great bold prayers you never prayed,
 Exhilarating risks you never took,
 Sacrificial gifts you never offered,
 Friends you never made,
 Lives you never touched,
 And you're sitting with forgotten dreams,
 And you realise there was a world of desperate need,
 And a great God calling you to be part of something bigger than yourself -

You see the person you could have become but did not;
 You never followed your calling,
 You never got out of the boat.

Blessing from Meg



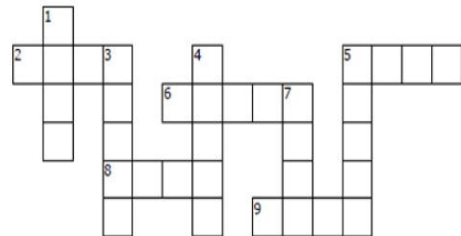
A ship is safe in the harbor,
 But that's not what ships are built for.
 And the harboured ships that fritter away,
 Slowly begin to rot and decay.
 Never has there been a greater waste of a day,
 Than that spent harboured,
 Than those of us who stay. ~ Gael Attal



Jesus Walks on the Water

During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. Matthew 14:25 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 14:22-33 (NIV)



ACROSS

2. The natural movement of air
5. To travel along on your feet
6. Moving swells on the surface of the sea
8. A small vessel for travel on water
9. An unpleasant feeling caused by danger

DOWN

1. To go downward in water
3. A lack of confidence or belief in God
4. A firm belief in God
5. A liquid that comes down from the clouds as rain
7. To rescue someone

PRAYER PUPS BY JEFFREY SMITH



- 9 August ~ Ross Davidson
- 13 August ~ Judy Lennon
- 28 August ~ Anna Davidson
- 31 August ~ Alan Littlejohns



.... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus