

Stepping Away From the Crowd

Most of us know pretty well the story of Peter walking on water (Matthew 14:22-33). It was an incredible demonstration of faith. Can you imagine actually climbing out of the boat and walking toward Jesus? I mean, the odds were stacked heavily against him. The time was somewhere between 3 and 6 AM, the wind was howling and causing the waves to crash around the boat, they were exhausted from struggling all night to cross the lake, and the disciples were terrified at seeing what they thought was a “ghost” (remember it was just before dawn). Yet, at Jesus’ invitation Peter had the courage and faith to do the irrational – he stepped out of the boat and walked on the water toward Him.

Usually when we think about this story we key in on two things: 1) if we keep our eyes on Jesus we can do amazing things, and 2) the minute we take our eyes off of Jesus we begin to sink. Great lessons, but there’s something else in this story worth noticing – the other disciples were still in the boat.

I can’t help but wonder what they were thinking when Peter started to climb out of the boat. Did they encourage him or try to stop him? Did they marvel at his faith or question his sanity? Perhaps they were stunned and speechless. Were they praising God or looking for a life jacket? Were they tempted to get out of the boat, too? There’s a lot we don’t know.

However, there are two things we do know. We know they didn’t get out of the boat, and we know that Peter did. Only Peter had the courage and faith to step away from his peers (the crowd) and head toward Jesus simply because Jesus said, “Come.” Of the group, only Peter walked on water.

I think that’s also what Jesus is asking us to do: “Step away from the crowd, walk on water and come to me.” He’s asking us to step away from the crowded road and walk the narrow path to life (Matthew 7:13-14). He’s asking us to turn away from the unthankful majority and give Him praise even if no one else does (Luke 17:11-19). He’s asking us to leave what’s comfortable and carry His cross (Luke 14:25-27). He’s asking us to stop walking by sight and live by faith (2 Corinthians. 5:7). He’s asking us to give up our trust in money and material things, and seek Him first (Matthew 6:24-33). He’s asking us to quit making excuses and get out of the boat!! He’s asking us to step away from the crowds like Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses and David did (Hebrews 11).

If you had been in the boat with Peter, what would you have done?

Joe Chesser preaches for the Fruitland Church of Christ, Fruitland, MO.

Schedule of Services:

Greeting: Mark

Song Leader: Ray

Opening Hymn:

165—Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us

Opening Prayer:

Tom

Hymn:

22—I Will Sing the Wondrous Story

Scripture Reading:

Larry

Matthew 14:22-33

Hymn:

293—Night With Ebon Pinion

Lord’s Supper:

Dale and Ron

Hymn:

575—Sunshine in the Soul

Sermon: Mark

Invitation Hymn:

643—Christ Receiveth Sinful Men

Closing Hymn:

661—Take the Name of Jesus With you

Closing Prayer:

Gary

PRAYER LIST

- *We receive a phone call asking for prayers for Don and Pam Bowman about their health.
- *Tom and Nina are out of town.
- *Nina will see a retina specialist on September 19th.
- *Mary and her family.
- *Nina's brother, James.
- *Robert and Sara
- *Pat and Ron.
- *Juanita and her family.
- *Larry and Ruth
- *Dale in reference to his work, his mother and his cousin Jayna and her family. His friend Zarna and her family.
- *Ray, Rebecca, and Steven.
- *Our congregation

CALENDAR

- Sept. 8—Bible Study 10 am
Dale
- Sept. 8—Worship 11 am & 6 pm
Speaker: Mark
- Sept. 8—Business Meeting
- Sept. 11—Bible Study 7 pm
Rob
- Sept. 15—Bible Study 10 am
Dale
- Sept. 15—Worship 11 am & 6 pm
Speaker: Mark
- Sept. 16—b. Susan
- Sept. 18—Bible Study 7 pm
Rob
- Sept. 19—b. Ray M.
- Sept. 22—Bible Study 10 am
- Sept. 22—Worship 11 am & 6 pm
Speaker: Mark
- Sept. 25—Bible Study 7 pm
Rob
- Sept. 28—b. Rylan

Jesus Walks on the Sea

Scripture Reference: Matthew 14:22-33

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| AFRAID | ANSWERED | BEFORE | BEGINNING |
| BOISTEROUS | CAUGHT | CEASED | CONSTRAINED |
| CONTRARY | DISCIPLES | EVENING | FOURTH |
| IMMEDIATELY | LITTLE | MOUNTAIN | MULTITUDES |
| SAYING | SPIRIT | STRAIGHTWAY | STRETCHED |
| TOSSED | TROUBLED | WALKING | WHEREFORE |
| WORSHIPPED | | | |

W H E N P E Y B T C O N T R A R Y S
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 F J B N Q K N W W T U L Z V T O I Y
 W A L K I N G S Y D V B Y I H X K O

Hidden Message: _____

Jesus
 out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to
 Answer to Puzzle: when Peter was come down

“The road to success is dotted with many tempting parking spaces.” – Will Rogers

SUNDAY: Bible Class — 10:00 am; Worship — 11:00 am; Evening — 6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Study — 7:00 pm
Website: Chardonchurchofchrist.org
E-mail: church_of_Christ@roadrunner.com
Pod Cast: Chardon.podbean.com