

Session One: Getting Out of The Boat

Statement...Jesus invites Peter to join him on the water. Braving the 1st awkward steps, Peter defied all odds, until he takes his eyes off Christ, sees the wind, and sinks. His walk on water is a “metaphor for faith”, what faith means, the common obstacles that arise whenever we exercise our faith. With God’s help what we could never do without his help. We face a lifelong struggle between faith and fear.

Traits of Water Walkers and Risk Takers

- 1. Water-walkers recognize GOD’S PRESENCE. He recognized that God was present even in unlikely place. What sounds like an impulsive remark, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come out to you” isn’t a risky stunt. It is a sign of obedience.**
- 2. Water Walkers discern between FAITH/FOOLISHNESS. There are true calls from God and then there are what can only be called foolish impulses. For Peter, courage wasn’t enough. Joining Jesus on the water wasn’t FEARLESS RISK TAKING, but a sign of wisdom.**
- 3. Water Walkers get out of the Boat. The winds are whipping and the waves crashing. You are scared. Boat is safe/secure. Do you choose the water/boat? Get out of the boat you may die. Stay in the boat, you never get this chance again.**
- 4. Water Walkers Expect problems. For a while, it was only Peter and Jesus on the water, till Peter saw THE WIND. His fears kick in. He had nothing beneath him for safety. Nothing outside had changed. What changed was his focus: a shift from the SAVIOR to the STORM.**
- 5. Water Walkers know Fear as Price for Growth. We seek comfort but comfort isn’t a worthy goal for Disciples of Jesus who never sought his own comfort. Both RISK/COMFORT can grow into habits. Every time we act on our FAITH or FEAR, we develop these habits.**
- 6. Water Walkers master failure. Failure doesn’t SHAPE US; how WE REACT TO FAILURE is what shapes us. Failure isn’t AN EVENT but a JUDGMENT ABOUT AN EVENT. Every time we fail, we learn. Every time we learn, we grow. Our failures are not final. Only Peter knew public failure, yet only he knew the glory of walking on water, attempting the impossible, and being supported by Jesus.**