

Sermon Notes – March 23, 2025

## **Crossing Over: Stepping Into the New**

Week 8: Step Out of the Boat

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**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 14:22-33

“<sup>22</sup>Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. <sup>23</sup>After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone. <sup>24</sup>Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. <sup>25</sup>About three o’clock in the morning<sup>[a]</sup> Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. <sup>26</sup>When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, “It’s a ghost!” <sup>27</sup>But Jesus spoke to them at once. “Don’t be afraid,” he said. “Take courage. I am here!<sup>[b]</sup>” <sup>28</sup>Then Peter called to him, “Lord, if it’s really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water.” <sup>29</sup>“Yes, come,” Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup>But when he saw the strong<sup>[c]</sup> wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. “Save me, Lord!” he shouted. <sup>31</sup>Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. “You have so little faith,” Jesus said. “Why did you doubt me?” <sup>32</sup>When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. <sup>33</sup>Then the disciples worshiped him. “You really are the Son of God!” they exclaimed.”

### **1) THE JOURNEY WILL HAVE STORMS**

- There are going to be storms on your journey (no one is excluded)
- Jesus does not leave us alone and terrified in the storm
- Their fear clouded their vision so that they did not recognize Him (ex. Didn’t remember His words/promise, power, ...)

### **2) OUR RESPONSE MATTERS**

- Our responses affect our journeys: All the disciples were in the same storm, all were terrified, all saw and heard Jesus, what separated them, and their journey was their **RESPONSES!**
- “We cannot control what happens to us, but we can control how we respond!” – Craig Groeschel

- The majority chose to stay stuck in the boat in fear and in their doubts, with untapped potential, missing the fullness of what God had for their lives including the adventure of a lifetime.
- What have you possibly missed out on by letting fear turn you into a "Boat Potato"? (J. Ortberg)
- We must choose to allow our belief and trust in Christ to overrule our emotions, fears, and past experiences, if we are to step out, and walk into the new.
- In the middle of a storm, we need to call out to Jesus and then trust & respond to His voice and step out of the boat!
- Jesus will use our "little faith" to not only help us step out of the boat, but also to get back up and walking on the water again.

### **3) STEP OUT OF THE BOAT**

- Don't be a "Boat Potato", trust the potential He sees in you to walk on the water!
- Peter's choice to step out in faith shaped not only his view of God, but it helped to shape his/others' lives as well. (ex. They all worshipped him; he became the "Rock" ...).
- God has walk on water moments for you! Will you choose to call to Him and step out of the boat?

### **GETTING PRACTICAL:**

- 1) Spend Time with Jesus:** Spending Time with Jesus makes us want to be more like Him; and it helps us to see/believe that there is more potential for our/others' lives than what has been experienced. Our Faith and expectations are expanded by proximity and relationship with Jesus. (ex. Peter asked for Jesus to ask Him to come... thinking it could be possible - "If it's you Jesus I want to be just like You.")
- 2) Look for Opportunities to Step Out**
- 3) Step Out & Trust Him:** Activate your faith by taking a step when you hear his "voice", even if it's a small one. The more times we recognize and trust Him, and step out of the boat, and see His faithfulness in action, the easier it becomes to trust him more and more.

**Today what is your next step?**