



### **Jesus Walks on the Water - (Matthew 14:22-33)**

Just before our story unfolds, Jesus had fed the five thousand and had sent the disciples to get into the boat and go to the other side, had dismissed the crowd and had gone up the mountain by himself to pray. It was at that point that the disciples got into trouble on the water, strong winds and high waves. We read that Jesus came walking on the water, most of the disciples were afraid, was it a ghost but Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” There are many times in our lives when the winds and the waves of our experiences seem too much for us, Jesus comes to us in those moments and says, do not be afraid, I am here.

The next part of the story is about Peter saying, “if it is really, you Lord, command me to come to you on the water”. Jesus said “come”. I love the way Peter is always ready to have a go and so he stepped out of the boat. Would we have stepped out of the boat? It was a risky thing to do. Are we prepared to take risks like Peter when Jesus says “come”?

John Ortberg has written a book “If you want to walk on water, you’ve got to get out of the boat” and that is exactly what Peter was doing. Our reading says he was walking towards Jesus until he looked down and saw the wind and the waves, he took his eyes off the one who had called him to come. In his panic he began to sink, and he cried out “Lord, save me!” and Jesus reached out his hand and caught him.

Peter took a risk stepping out of the boat and found that Jesus was there all the time. Have you ever taken a risk like Peter and stepped out of the boat? It is a good question to reflect on. Can we as a church take a risk and step out of “the boat” and walk towards Jesus and find Jesus saying to us collectively – “do not be afraid of the future, I am with you”.

Evie Tornquist sings a song that reminds us that when we feel we’re going under, we just need to call out to Jesus, he hears us and lifts us up above those storms that are threatening to pull us under.

When I think I'm going under, part the waters, Lord  
When I feel the waves around me, calm the sea  
When I cry for help, oh hear me Lord  
And hold out Your hand  
Touch my life  
Still the raging storm in me

Knowing You love me  
Through the burdens I must bear  
Hearing Your footsteps  
Let's me know I'm in Your care  
And in the night of my life  
You bring the promise of day  
Here is my hand  
Show me the way

When I think I'm goin' under  
Part the waters Lord  
When I feel the waves around me, calm the sea  
When I cry for help, oh hear me Lord  
And hold out Your hand  
Touch my life

Still the raging storm in me  
Knowing You love me  
Helps me face another day  
Hearing Your footsteps  
Drives the clouds and fears away  
And in the tears of my life  
I see the sorrow You bore  
Here is my pain  
Heal it once more

When I think I'm goin' under  
Part the waters Lord  
When I feel the waves around me, calm the sea  
When I cry for help, oh hear me Lord  
And hold out Your hand  
Touch my life  
Still the raging storm in me

Touch my life  
Still the raging storm in me