



Grow, Pray, Study

Servants of Christ United Methodist Parish

The Week of August 3, 2020

MATTHEW 14:22-33 New King James

22 Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. 23 And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. 24 But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. 25 Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. 26 And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." 28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." 29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" 31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

GROW, PRAY, STUDY ---- MATTHEW 14:22-33 --- WHEN THE WIND IS AGAINST US

A man who had been divorced 3 times thought he was ready to get married again. He had been dating a woman who had a 7 year old daughter. But as they got closer to the wedding, he started getting cold feet. He took some time to get away and reflect and pray. Looking over a bright lake, he named his three fears: 1) fear that he was just going to repeat everything that went wrong in his first 3 marriages, 2) fear of all the challenges of a new family—custody, jobs, and 3) fear that he really wasn't worthy of love, God's or anyone else's. Then he felt God telling him, "Let your fears go. You don't need them anymore." (over please)

In the context of our scripture for Sunday, Jesus is facing his own storm. Those he grew up with and knew from his hometown had rejected him, his cousin John the Baptist had been executed, and he knew the beloved crowds would not last. While he was praying on a mountain, he too looked over a lake and saw his friends in peril. The scripture says they had three things against them: 1) they were battered by waves, 2) they were far from shore, and 3) the wind was against them. If they only had one or two of those horrible situations, they might be ok. But three out of three is just hopeless.

We Methodists believe in something called 'prevenient grace,' or 'grace that goes before.' It says that when you accept Christ into your life it is only because he has been working in your life to prepare the way; he has brought you to the front door of God's house, so to speak, and you just have to walk in. So when you cry out to God in your battered boat, God is already walking to you. He is already there; you are just giving God an RSVP to what he's already doing to bring healing in your shattered life. You can't escape grace; you can only live into it.

We believe Jesus is fully human--- that means Jesus has complete compassion.

We believe Jesus is fully God--- that means Jesus has complete power.

In life, you are either going into a storm, in a storm, or coming out of a storm. But in all three, your compassionate, powerful God will never leave your side.

----Where are you now as to the storms on your lake?