

you to take a step of faith, trusting him, not letting the storms of life shape you. Not letting the storms of life control where you go or what you do, but letting Jesus lead you. Lead you into situations way beyond your control or ability, but well within his. Where is Jesus calling you to take a risk, trusting him with life?

Are you called to risk not listening to the culture around you by giving your wealth to those in need, trusting the Father will care for you? Trusting that life isn't about how much you have, but how much you are loved; by God, by others, and how much you are able to love God in loving other people.

Where is Jesus inviting you to risk life with him?

Let us pray.

Jesus open my eyes to your call on my life today. Open my ears to your call that I risk my life trusting you. Show me this week where you want me to risk trusting you so that I can be living life in all your fullness. Jesus save me from retreating into my own comfort, losing the life you've given your life for me to share with you. Amen.

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## Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am  
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

26 August 2012

## THE MIRACLES OF JESUS—MATTHEW 14:22-36

E100



This week from the E100 readings I'd like to focus on the story of Jesus walking on the water. The story begins with Jesus sending his disciples off in the boat while he goes off to a quiet place to pray; after he has dismissed the crowd he has just feed.

Here a saw what could be an interesting contrast; the disciples are working hard, while Jesus is in one sense doing nothing. He's not rowing hard with the disciples but he's gone of for a coffee with his Dad. That could almost be seen as being lazy, a waste of time, there was work to be done. But for Jesus he priorities this time with his Father as of greater worth.

That got me thinking about the times I've

neglected the people in my life whom I love and who love me, so that I could accomplish a task that was soon forgotten and certainly didn't care about me let alone love me.

Spending time with people and especially spending quiet time with them is a priority for any relationship to flourish and grow healthy. So Jesus often took time to go somewhere quiet to be alone with his Father, so that the love they have for each other could find expression and flourish.

As the story unfolds where do we find the disciples? The imagery is significant. Jesus is with his Father. The disciples are out on the lake in a wild storm. They're fighting the elements. They're growing tired, and no

doubt anxious and concerned about what will happen next. They're working hard, but getting no where. Have you ever felt like that?

You've worked hard, with all your might, and now you just feel tired.

What did the disciples have to show for all their effort?

The image of the disciples in the storm I think is a good image of life at times. The storm comes and we're tossed around, we're uncertain, and nobody seems able to help. We don't make any ground, but go round and round and it begins to feel hopeless. The storms of life can leave us feeling exhausted and alone. I reckon that's how the disciples were feeling; exhausted, and alone in

the middle of the lake. Out in the middle of the lake you'd definitely get the feeling that you were beyond anyone's ability to help you.

Then we read; "Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, 'It's a ghost,' they said, and cried out in fear." (Matt. 14:25,26)

We don't see a tired and exhausted Jesus. The storm isn't shaping Jesus, he's walking through it. What shapes Jesus? The love of the Father, that wonderful relationship with Jesus lives with his Father.

What an interesting contrast; life shaped by the storm, or by the Father's love? What's shaping my life?

I love the fact that Jesus comes to the disciples in the middle of their struggle. Right where

they need him, that's where he is. He's not over on the shore, remote from them. Jesus has come to be with them in the midst of their storm; so he feels their anxiety, he knows their struggle, but he's not consumed or controlled by it.

I love the image of

### What Storm are you in?

Jesus coming out into the midst of my storms, not leaving me to do the best I can; sink or swim. No Jesus comes to the very place I'm at, to the very place I need him, now. What a comforting truth this image gives.

Did you notice that Jesus didn't prevent his disciples from finding themselves in a storm?

Actually we read he was the one who sent them off. Why? Because you don't

learn about trust when there is nothing to risk.

It is easy to say; 'I trust you' when there is nothing to lose. But if I ask you for \$100,000 and promise to pay it back, the risk level rises. It's easy to say; 'I love you' when everything is going smooth, it could be a

different story in the midst of a stormy relationship.

A stormy relationship with a child, with a spouse, with a

friend, with someone at work, with your enemy. Living out this love in the midst of a storm is what grows and matures love. I can't grow in trust and love if there isn't a promise to trust in, or a person to love.

Through this experience the disciples relationship with Jesus grows immensely. It grows beyond mere words, they've experienced it firsthand. They've been

in the storm; worn out, exhausted, unsure of the outcome, feeling out of reach, alone. They've been in the storm and have had Jesus come out to them, in person.

The one who would have grown the most was Peter. Peter not only experienced Jesus coming out to him in the storm, Peter also experienced the power of Jesus' word. Peter when he saw Jesus had this brainwave;

"Lord, if it is you tell me to come to you on the water.' 'Come,' Jesus said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus." (Matt. 14:28,29)

Amazing, Peter takes Jesus at his word and risks his life stepping out of the boat. Peter risks his life trusting Jesus' word.

Now if I was in a storm in a perfectly good boat, I wouldn't be

looking at stepping out into the storm. I'd be thinking about keeping myself safe and dry in the boat.

Maybe this is one of the ways the storms rob us of life; we retreat. We retreat to what we feel is safe and secure, and become trapped. Trapped in the familiar.

### Risk following Jesus

Trapped in what feels safe but is really lifeless. Have you ever felt trapped.

What an amazing risk Peter took. To grow we need to take risks. When children learn to walk they have to risk falling. To find a spouse you have to risk rejection. To go from Murray Bridge to Adelaide you have to risk driving your car.

The trap is that I try and keep myself safe; then I won't risk something

new, like walking, then I won't get hurt. I won't risk rejection but I'll never know the depths of love. I won't risk driving so I'll never know the joys of new experiences.

What is inhibiting you?

Notice that Peter doesn't just get some idea in his head and then figure he's going to do it no matter what. That could be just plain foolish. No Peter quite clearly sees

Jesus, out on the water. So Peter asks Jesus to command him to come. It's on Jesus command that Peter takes his step of faith. Peter isn't being foolish, he's trusting Jesus at his word. He's risking his life, not to prove himself as some dare devil, or because he's afraid of missing out. No Peter risks his life as he trust Jesus, taking him at his word.

Where do you see Jesus? Where is calling