



Church at Home for Abridge

9th August 2020

Matthew 14:22-33

Further resources for worship and reflection

Mark and John both record this story about Jesus walking on the water. But only Matthew includes the detail about Peter's response to seeing Jesus coming towards them. It's remarkable that the first Christians, who knew Peter as a leader of the Church, had permission from him to retell a story that didn't show the chief apostle in a particularly good light. On the other hand, it is not difficult to imagine that Peter wanted them to learn from his mistakes. When we keep our eyes on Jesus, all sorts of things are possible - way beyond are imagining. However, this story reminds us how easy it is to lose that vision, to slip up, and, as in Peter's case, almost drown. Because of this incident, Peter had compassion on those who struggled with their faith. And also, because of what happened to him. Peter knew that Jesus would always reach out his hand to rescue anyone. Christians are called to be part of a community of vulnerable and honest disciples. These are the people God will use to grow the Kingdom.

'Take courage! It is I! Don't be afraid'

What causes you to be afraid? In what areas do you feel that you need courage?

Hear Jesus say to you, 'Come.' You are invited to step out of your boat and trust him. Bring to him any situations that may feel daunting and too big for you to handle, as the wind and the waves were for Peter.

Hear Jesus say, 'Take courage, have faith'.
Resolve to keep your eyes fixed on him.

And

Don't be afraid to take risks:

To laugh is to risk appearing a fool.

To weep is to risk appearing sentimental.

To reach out to another is to risk involvement.

To expose feelings is to risk exposing your true self.

To place your ideas, your dreams before the crowd is to risk their loss.

To love is to risk not being loved in return.

To live is to risk dying.

To hope is the risk despair.

To try is to risk failure.

But all risks must be taken, because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing.

The person who risks nothing, does nothing; has nothing; is nothing. He or she may avoid suffering and sorrow, but simply cannot learn, feel, change, grow, love, live.

Chained by certainties, they are a slave.

That person forfeits their freedom

Only a person who risks is free



Thank you, Peter, for sharing your failure;
your reckless attempt at the supernatural;
your small faith;
your desperate SOS;
your public embarrassment.

Your honesty is what we need,
because we also struggle,
and sink beneath the waves of life.
We are so grateful that you proved for us
That Jesus will never let us go.

*He is faithful to his word and will never let me down;
He hears me when I call his name, he will not let me drown*

Sheila M Bell