

# IT'S TIME TO GET OUT OF THE BOAT



*PSALM 85:8-13 NRSV // MATTHEW 14:22-33 NRSV*

## **MONDAY 8/14/23**

Psalm 85:8-13//8 Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

Matthew 14:22-33// 22 Immediately he (Jesus) made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

**REFLECTION** As Jesus went up the mountain to pray, His disciples began to sail across the lake. That night a powerful storm shook the boat. After Jesus feeds a crowd of 5,000 the people want to make Him their King. So, to counter that move, Jesus told His disciples to get in the boat and set sail to another location. In the meantime Jesus disappears into the mountain to rest. He was there with His Father in prayer. As the disciples where sailing a great storm came upon them. Jesus puts His disciples in harms way for a purpose. He is putting them into a position to strengthen their faith in Him. This violent storm causes the disciples to fear for their lives. Jesus is assuring us no matter the storms we face do not be afraid for He is by our side. Faith in Christ means we entrust our lives to God. Every Sunday at FCC we gather and welcome anyone who dares to be loved by God No matter your storm, let us help you lean on the love of God. He grants us eternal security through His Son, Jesus Christ. We invite you to the safety of our boat, where we help you grab Jesus' hand. Those who do will be delightfully surprised.

**PRAYER Lord Jesus grab my hand and my heart as I go about my day. Open my heart and give me peace. In Jesus Name Amen.**

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## **TUESDAY 8/15/23**

Psalm 85:8-13//9 Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

Matthew 14:22-33// 23 And after he (Jesus) had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray.

**REFLECTION** After a long day of healing, teaching and feeding the crowd Jesus was tired and wanted to be refreshed. So off He went into the mountains to be alone with His Father. Even though He was apart from His disciples, He was fully aware of the violent storm they were facing. I am absolutely sure Jesus took the situation to God in prayer. Jesus was about to exhibit proof He has authority over all of creation. The wind and the roaring sea accept His commands. Notice please, even though Jesus has everything at His disposal, he still humbles Himself and shows Himself to be a man who needs to pray to His Father. As His children we are to daily take everything to Him in prayer. Jesus is displaying a sincere human affection for His disciple. (Also read Jesus prayer in John 17) Jesus desire is to go up into the mountain and take counsel with God. He wanted to be alone with God. I find the slightest degree of interruption tends to destroy our zeal for prayer. Christ of course is never in danger of this defect. Jesus clearly is teaching us to set our minds free from the snares of this world have a private time with our Creator. To do this means we look direct into heaven. In the storms forming around us, seek the solitude with God who loves us and cares for us. As we engage in prayer with our God we become not only a witness to His grace, but God pours into our hearts security and trust. In this special time we have the privilege to come before Him reaching out for His hand of grace.

**PRAYER Your glory, Lord God, shines in those who you have granted salvation. Help me to start everyday to reach out and hold your hand of grace and mercy. I humbly seek your wisdom. In Jesus Name Amen**

### WEDNESDAY 8/16/23

Psalm 85:8-13// 10 Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Matthew 14:22-33// When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. 25 And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.

REFLECTION The disciples had been fighting for their lives all night long. The storm arose during the day Jesus left for the mountains. Jesus clearly instructs them to sail out even though He knew of the storm. He is preparing them to see His full power over all of heaven and earth. It is comforting for me to know Jesus knows the storms I will face. On this day, and everyday, He is preparing me for those days. Take time to read John 6:16-27 another version of this miracle feat. Early in the morning, Jesus was walking on the sea, towards the boat filled with frightened disciple. This miraculous crossing had been designed to confirm their faith in Jesus. When Christ presented himself to them the boat was in a lot of danger. Jesus allowed the disciples to be tossed about in this boat. It's a life threatening situation and by it Jesus is teaching them to fix their attention on Him alone. By this time the disciple must have been greatly fatigued fighting the storm all night long. Their faith must have been shaken by the great horror of death facing them. Jesus appearance of walking on the sea frightens them even more. Truth is they showed an extraordinary ignorance thinking Jesus was a ghost. Did they not just



participate in feeding 5000 men with 5 loaves and 2 fish! They certainly had an abundance of evidence that Jesus had divine power. We all need to get out of the boat in our storms and trust the only one who can help us, save us, and chase away our fears. We ought to open our eyes and see Jesus around us, in us, and joyfully experience His love. We too have slowness and uneasiness towards our faith. Praise God for the Spirit of truth who breaks through for us. We must respect the natural corruption of our own minds and how we are set free from it.

**PRAYER Lord God you are steadfast in love that endures forever. Your faithfulness is amazing and it teaches me daily. Your righteousness is far from my understand and your eternal peace will one day rule over all of creation. Praise you! In Jesus Name, Amen**

### THURSDAY 8/17/23

Psalm 85:8-13// 11 Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

Matthew 14:22-33// 26 But when the disciples saw him (Jesus) walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

REFLECTION If I was there in that boat I would be seized with an amazing awe and fear. Seeing Jesus for who He really is can be a frightening experience. His walk on water shows us he commands authority over all the laws of physics and all of creation. Some people would question if this was from the dark side or is this some bad omen from God? St John (John 6) holds out a mirror to what kind of knowledge we need to have to accept this amazing man called Jesus Christ. When Jesus is demonstrating His full divinity over life and creation our imaginations can run wild. Trembling with fear the disciples have a new terror in their hearts. Jesus immediately calls to them "It is I" This gives them some assurance and peace. He speaks with a clear voice and offers real safety and joy. In John 6 20 Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. I am here!" 21 Then they were willing to take him into the boat." Much later when Judas betrays Jesus the opposite happens. This time He strikes terror and fear in mens hearts. John 18 4 Jesus fully realized all that was going to happen to him, so he stepped forward to meet them. "Who are you looking for?" he asked. 5 "Jesus the Nazarene," they replied. "I am he," Jesus said. 6 As Jesus said "I am he," they all drew back and fell to the ground."

**PRAYER Lord Jesus you are faithful to God you Father and you will rise up on the last day and bring holy righteousness to all of creation. Blessed is your Name. In Jesus Name, Amen**

## FRIDAY 8/18/23

Psalm 85:8-13// 12 The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

Matthew 14:22-33// 28 Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." 29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.

**REFLECTION** Peter response shows the depth of his faith even though it was still in it's infant stage. Getting "out of the boat" is a risky thing for Peter to do. It is also risky for us too. We all are learning to strengthens our faith we need to trust in Jesus. When we step "out of the boat" our faith bursts forward in amazing way's. The key of course, is to be like Peter. First, we are to listen, then obey. Do you know the hymn "Trust and Obey"? Verse 3 "Not a burden we bear, Not a sorrow we share, But our toil He doth richly repay; Not a grief or a loss, Not a frown or a cross, But is blest if we trust and obey." When God speaks, we ought to obey. When God acts, we change and our faith grows. Christ shows us His love by putting us into real life situations just like Pete walking on the water! As we listen to Jesus voice, He gives to us as we need. In the early stages of our faith Jesus holds our hand and guides us. Think about this way. When we were younger we learned to write by someone taking our hand and guiding it to shape the letters. Jesus does the same thing. He reaches out His hand everyday guiding us and shaping us into God's children.

**PRAYER Heavenly Father you are just and right in giving me what is good for me, even though I think it is bad. You show me your love for me, by moving me to a deeper faith in your Son, my Lord and Savior. In Jesus Name Amen.**

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## SATURDAY 8/19/23

Psalm 85:8-13// 13 Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

Matthew 14:22-33// 30 But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

**REFLECTION** The love Jesus has for Peter is certainly on display. He graciously protects Peter, and does not allow his lack of faith harm him. Not every kind of fear gives to us the evidence of a weak faith. Christ's words imply, where faith is strong, there is little room for doubt. Christ rebukes doubt, which is opposed to faith. We all doubt at times for many reason. Peter at first did not doubt but obeys Jesus' command. Then foolishly he falls to fear because it is so overwhelming. No matter the situation Jesus prepares us every day to grow in our faith. Jesus is preparing us daily to trust Him. Especially when there is turmoil in our lives. Notice Peter's actions is not just for Peter's sake. It is for the sake of the rest of disciples in the boat. The power of Christ shone brightly on Peter when he began to sink. They see exactly what had happened. They fall before Jesus in fear and reverence and worship Him! This is the one true Messiah who is Master over the wind the waves and life itself.

**PRAYER Thank you Lord Jesus for making me lie down in green pastures. And thank you for the times you have guided my mind and heart to love others as you have loved me. In Jesus Name**



*PSALM 145:8-9, 14-21 NIV // MATTHEW 14:3:13-21 NLT*

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