

Bible Study for Sunday August 9, 2020

Our texts for this Sunday are:

- Romans 10:5-15
- Matthew 14:22-33

Opening Question: What is the hardest thing for you personally during this challenging season we are all facing?

Read Matthew 14:22-33 ²²Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." ²⁸Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Try to hear this text as if you never heard the story before. What things immediately jump out to you? Why?

What was the event that had occurred right before Jesus' disciples got into the boat (Matt 14:13-21)? What was Jesus doing while they were going across the lake? What does this teach us about ourselves and our life in Christ?

What is the danger of making the takeaway point from this text be: "You better not take your eyes off Jesus or you're going to sink and perish"? How is that different from the takeaway point of: "Jesus is a mighty Savior who always has His eyes on us even when we take our eyes off of Him"?

What is Jesus' response to Peter's doubt? Does Jesus tell him that he shouldn't have gotten out of the boat in the first place?

What are your thoughts on the statement: “You can doubt and follow Jesus at the same time”? How does that statement challenge your understanding of the relationship between faith and doubt? In what ways do you find it freeing?

Is it difficult to believe that God wants to do something significant in you and in the lives of others through you that might call you to step outside your comfort zone? Why or why not?

Read Romans 10:5-15

⁵Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷“or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say? “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” ¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

How are we guilty of thinking that we earn a relationship with God and/or can really move up the Christian scale?

Do our words (of faith) often get drowned out by our actions or inactions?

What specific behaviors does the church seem to think are necessary or need to be stopped in order to receive salvation? How does that idea balance with this text?

What word is on your lips and in your heart now?