

Rev. Thomas Emery
“Waling on Water” Matthew 14:22-33
Salem Presbyterian Church
Sunday, August 10, 2014

It was not the custom of Jesus to walk on water. When He wanted to travel He usually went by boat, just as you and I do. But, our passage shows the exception of a confounding miracle that the disciples witnessed. Jesus walked on water during a raging storm. While in a boat far from shore and fearful of drowning, they saw Him walking to them through a mist of fog. Then, Jesus said to them, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

TEACHING POINTS

Teaching Point One: *We need to focus our eyes on Jesus.* Look at the waves and you're a goner, but look to the Lord, and find salvation there.

Teaching Point Two: *Are we under circumstances or on top of them?* Turbulent circumstances are always with us. We don't create them, and many times we cannot change them. But, with God's help we can refuse to be engulfed by them.

Teaching Point Three: *The worst thing we can do while a storm is to let go of our faith in God.* If we let go of our faith, we will surely sink. However, if we will just hold on to our faith and look for Christ's hand reaching out to us, we can make it through any storm.

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

"But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!" (Matthew 14:27 NET, *Greek "I am" See Exodus 3:14, the Name God calls Himself).

ACTION POINT

In his excitement, Peter said: "I want to walk on the water too." So he called out to Jesus, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." And Jesus said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but, as the story is told, "when he saw the wind, he was afraid." Beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" As Jesus stretched out his hand to Peter, he said to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?"

And that's Christ's loving word for us this day. "Take courage. It is I. Don't be afraid." In the face of economic downturns, in the face of our health slipping away, in the face of losing a loved one to illness or your children dealing with life's issues, don't be fearful. Christ is with you. Take Christ's hand reaching out to you, and He can lift you above the waves.