



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Discerning and Deciding to Step Out of the Boat

Speaker: Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor

Scripture: Matthew 14:22-23

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. 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. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

"Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Sermon Outline:

1. The sea is something scary to go into.
2. The Lord says, "Take heart. I Am. Do Not be Afraid"
3. Peter seeks confirmation, heard the Lord's voice and steps into the sea.
4. A little bit of faith is not a life of certainty.
5. Discernment is about training our souls to hear His voice.
6. Discernment is not about full certainty but understanding that you can trust God.
7. Peter steps out but is then again afraid, Jesus reaches out to Peter and catches him.
8. Sooner or later we will sink, but through His mercy and grace, He raises us to newness in life.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday Pastor Rich Villodas summarizes and finishes the series on Discerning and Deciding. The final point of deciding and stepping out in faith is discussed.

Sermon Questions:

What words or phrases from this scripture passage resonated in you as you read them? Why?

- How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? How so?
- How in your family of origin were/are decisions made? What factors were considered? What rules/parameters were valued?
- The storm is a metaphor for confusion, spiritual warfare, and disorientation. What storms have you faced in life? How did the Lord pull you out?
- When making his choice to step out, it was because Peter knew the voice of the Lord. What steps do we need to make to better know His voice?
- Where are you today in this story? Are you in the boat scared? Are you calling out to the Lord awaiting His response? Have you stepped out of the boat and made a decision? Do you feel you are sinking and need to be pulled up?