

***But was there any encouragement from the disciples in the boat?***

***Who do we get encouragement from when we are 'sinking'?***

Yet despite this & other 'sinking moments' Peter became the 'rock' of the Church. God uses our failures for his Glory.

**What is God saying to me/our church today about stepping out from our comfort?**

Do I need to be more childlike in the way I trust God?

Like the little boy sharing the little he had to try & make a difference for Jesus?

The little boy who dared to try & make a difference with the little he had to offer?

Or maybe like we pray in the Lord's Prayer - to trust in God to provide my daily bread for today?

Or maybe it is like Peter...

Taking the risk to step out of into the unknown

Away from the safety, the comfort or the safe Christianity

To take that step into the unknown & trust the known Jesus

Maybe today we feel we are sinking.

Jesus says "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid"

Maybe we just need to hear the whisper of Jesus in our hearts

"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place & get some rest..."

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# Sermon Notes

**Faith to walk on water**

**Matthew 14:13-35**

**life in all its fullness**

**John 10:10**

## **Matthew 14:13-35**

### **Matthew**

'The Church's Gospel' - only Gospel to use the word 'church' (16v18) when Jesus said "And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church."

Author Matthew, a tax collector called to be a Disciple or follower of Jesus.

Tax collectors were Jews who were despised as not being in respectable occupations like those Disciples that were fishermen, who did a decent, honest job...

Tax collectors were unclean and not trustworthy...yet Jesus called Matthew.

***What has inspired you so far with the series on Matthew?***

### **Jesus Feeds the 5,000**

We know there were many more than 5,000 people as the Jews only counted men (v21).

Prior to this miracle Jesus had heard the news about John the Baptist and "withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place" (v13)

Here we see the example of Jesus who regularly set time aside to be with God the Father.

Yet the demands for his time were there and Jesus had compassion and changed his plans (v14). Mark's account describes Jesus compassion for the crowd "because they were like sheep without a shepherd" (Mark 6:34)

***How flexible are my own plans when needs arise, whilst at the same time making sure I spend quality time with God?***

Demand for Jesus (and his disciples) was high. Mark 6:31 says that:

"so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat."

Yet Jesus said "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place & get some rest."

***How good are we at regular rest?***

***What does the Sabbath mean to you?***

And then we see the disciples concern with the crowds being fed & suggesting that Jesus sends them away so they can buy their own food.

But Jesus says "You give them something to eat" (v37)

What about the cost of this? (v37)

***God gives us all unique opportunities to use our Faith. What unique opportunities is God inspiring you to explore now?***

We may feel inadequate or not have much to offer but 'don't forget about the boy'!

Jesus takes the small offering from the boy & gives thanks, breaking the loaves.

Here we see links to the OT (2 Kings 4:42-44) & the NT (Last Supper & pointing forward to the Messianic banquet at the end of the age (Luke 14:15).

### **Jesus walking on water**

Again see the example of Jesus seeking God's presence despite the demands (v23): "After he had dismissed them he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray."

(v25) "during the 4th watch (3-6am) of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified...and they cried out with fear 'it's a ghost'"

But Jesus immediately said to them

***"Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid..."***

The example of Peter 'rash, headlong, incautious (or unwise), really attached to Jesus, but still easily daunted & prone to fall. He was afraid, therefore, when in danger & sinking, cried again for help. Thus he was suffered to learn his own character, and his dependence on Jesus: a lesson which all Christians are permitted sooner or later to learn by dear-bought experience."