

11th Sunday after Pentecost – A – August 9, 2026

Pastor Tim Miller

WORSHIP THEME: “Following Peter onto the Water In Answer to Jesus’ Call” *Checking into it “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.”* ²⁹ *He said, “Come.”* (John 14:28-29) *With such an invitation who can stay sitting in the boat?*

Matthew 14:22-33 – Peter Walking on the Water

²² Immediately **he made** the disciples **get into the boat** and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, **he went up on the mountain** by himself **to pray**. When evening came, he was there alone,

²⁴ but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them.

²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, **walking on the sea**. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, **“It is a ghost!”** and they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, **“Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.”**

²⁸ And 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 and walked on the water and came to Jesus. ³⁰ But when **he saw the wind**, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” ³¹ **Jesus immediately reached out** his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

³² And 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.”

Intro There is a **Fabulous Music Museum** in Pheonix

“Stradivarius violins – even a guitars, sooo sad. Locked up behind glass
They had music playing from speakers

but not a sound was coming from these wonderful instruments
Violins need to be played to stay alive

Once I was asked: **What sports do I like the best ?**

– checking to see what I watched

The games I played with my children and the youth group

At that time in my life I did not have time just to sit and watch TV

The sports I play was not high quality

It involved a lot of people, It was a community thing
 - laughing, struggling, encouraging, grunting, & celebrating together.

A quote: “professional football is an activity played by a few people who are overexerting themselves and watched by many people who need the exercise themselves.”

Jesus in His public ministry told a number of men, “Come follow Me!” and they did

Where were they going?

What were they going to do?

What would they see?

Was this an internship or a new business he was starting up?

They followed Jesus, they watched, they served, & they learned

One of those men, Levi, wrote down a diary summary
 of what happen on one particular day.

Levi had been a tax collector-working for the Roman occupiers

Collecting lots of taxes for the Romans

and a chunk more to pad his own pockets

A was a Jew who was working for the Romans

Jesus called him to be a disciple and he left everything and followed Jesus

Jesus changed his name to Matthew which meant **Gift of God**

This happened many times in the Bible

when a big change happened in a person's life

Abram became **Abraham**

Jacob the heal, became **Israel** “One who strives with God”

The Christian killing **Saul** became **Paul**, the missionary

The disciple **Simon** became **Peter** which means rock

The disciple **Levi** became **Matthew**

This particular day started with Bad News

They heard the news that John the Baptist had been executed because

King Herod – when he was drunk – made a very stupid promise

Herod knew it was wrong, but he wasn't a big enough man

a good enough person

or honest enough to admit his mistake

So John the Baptist, God's prophet & forerunner of the Messiah was killed in cold blood.

John the Baptist was Jesus' cousin. I wonder how many times they played together at the Passover Festivals in Jerusalem which their families attended each year?

John had done so much good, for so many people.

He brought their focus in life back to their relationship with God

He preached “repentance” Kneel down before God asking for forgiveness

YES, He preached that God is righteous, & full of forgiveness.

John helped thousands of people return to God, Trusting in Him.

So the Jesus & the disciples got into a boat went to a deserted spot on the lake

This shows the ‘human nature’ of Jesus

He was a human being, **totally a man**

he had emotions & feelings—He was in touch with people

—He was connected to mankind

The crowd saw him go & raced around the shore of the lake and beat him there.

We read that: Jesus saw them and had compassion on them.

He was the one who needed compassion but in LOVE He ministered TO THEM

That is who Jesus was—That is who our God is. All concerned about US.

Jesus then spent hour after hour that day healing the sick & caring for the people.

This also shows the ‘divine nature’ of Jesus

Jesus was God—**totally God**, All powerful, Almighty, All knowing, All present

Talking about Jesus as True God & True Man
is more than a technical theological definition
it is who He needed to be to be our Savior.

Way back at the beginning of the world, Sin became a part of everyone’s life

Sin causes separation from God

Sin corrupts everything

Sin causes people to run away from God

Sin carries an indictment of eternal punishment

The Bible tells us that “All have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God.”

Everyone of us falls under this curse,

Everyone except Jesus,

He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth

Totally Innocent, Totally Sinless

But he took our sin upon himself

He took our punishment upon himself

And because he was also God and all powerful

He had the victory for us.

We deserve God's punishment **but instead** received God's **eternal** blessing

Matthew would have been right in the middle of this miracle, splitting the bread, and distributing it to the people.

Big, Big, Day for everyone. Mind blowing. A day they would **never forget**.
So Mathew wrote it down so that **we would** never forget it either.

FINALLY Jesus got his alone time with God the Father.

Anytime, anywhere, under any circumstance we have a hotline to the Father.
He hears our prayers and he talks back to us in scripture

Then at 4:00 in the morning Jesus approaches the disciples walking on the lake.

You would think the disciples would get used to the amazing things Jesus did,
but Matthew tells us **they were terrified**. Matthew was too, I am sure
It is a ghost!! Help!!

Matthew tells us: But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “**Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.**”

THEN Peter did something that makes us scratch our heads. He said:

Lord, if it is you, command me **to come to you** on the water.”

And Jesus said: **“Come”**

That day Peter had

- Watched the crowds running to see Jesus
- Helped the crowds approach Jesus and watched Him heal them
- Helped with the miracle of multiplying the bread and fish and distributing it
- Then **he saw** Jesus walk on water

It appears that was not enough for Peter

He wanted to be right there with Jesus in the midst of what Jesus was doing. And Jesus said **COME**, & Peter was right there.

Peter was walking on the water with Jesus

This was new and different Peter

Jesus is so unpredictable who knows, what he has in mind
for us to do as his servants, to help him in the Kingdom

And then Peter took his eyes off Jesus and focused on the wind and the waves,
This caused him to begin to sink

But Jesus was right there and held out his hand for him.

That is a **take home** from this story to remember every day of our lives.

Jesus is always watching us, and has a hand ready to pull us out of trouble.

My example of this is when I had trouble with a hip surgery. It was messed up and needed to be redone. It took days to reach the doctor the hospital told me to contact. They the nice lady said, since you are a new patient you will have to wait 6 weeks to see the doctor and then 6 weeks before there would be an open operating room. I instead saw the next day a doctor who I had worked with before. He said: let's do it tomorrow. I just had a client cancel a surgery because he could not find a sitter for his cat.

Have you ever asked God to invite you to COME into a new adventure with Him?

Are YOU, **are ready to do more?**

a **Not my Will, But your will Be Done!** activity

To walk beside in him a new way?

To do new work, to be a bolder witness. To touch other people with the grace of God?

Have you ever asked:

God show me what you want me to do for you?

As you hear this story I hope that you don't only identify with **Matthew** who was in the boat, watching all of this

But can identify with Peter, **Lord, if that is you**
Here I am, Send me Send me

Too often we are satisfied: to stay in the boat and watch
to stay in the glass case on the wall & not make any music
to hide our light under a bushel
to stick tightly to our busy schedules the world has laid out for us
to keep our faith JUST a personal thing between us and God
To be satisfied JUST to sit back and watch others who are exhausted
from doing everything.

Peter stumbled many times (the big one we remember was when he denied he knew Jesus, when he was just feet away from Jesus during the trial that sent him to the cross.

But after this, we see Peter getting out of the boat again when he was asked to go to the home Cornelius, a gentile, and take him the good news of Salvation
—This told all of the disciples

that God's Mission was for more than the Jews but for all people

There is a story told about a woman tourist in Florida. She was admiring a necklace,

“What are those things?” She asked

Alligator teeth, ma'am. replied the native American.

“Oh, I see. I suppose they have the same value for your people that pearls have for us

“No, ma'am” he answered **“anybody can open an oyster.”**

God has given us faith that will move Mountains

Don't be content to just sit back in the boat, & watch.

Don't become complacent about your faith.

Jesus gave up his life for us to live and live it to the fullest

He is walking with us every day of our lives,

And He is **calling** us, to walk with Him in his mission
of **bringing** Grace & Salvation to all who are lost.

AMEN