

TAKE COURAGE!

As preached on Sunday, November 23rd

Read: Matthew 14:22-33

1. Why do you suppose Jesus made his disciples go ahead of him to the other side?
2. In v.24, Matthew provides a very simple description of what must have been a pretty significant storm. Have you ever found yourself in stormy conditions which were powerful enough to make you fear for your safety? How did you feel?
3. Warren Wiersbe has said, “The feeding of the 5,000 was the lesson, but the storm was the examination after the lesson.” Do you agree or disagree? Why?
4. Why do you think Jesus chose to approach his disciples in the way he did? What was the significance of his walking on water?
5. The disciples are afraid when they see Jesus approaching yet he says, “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” What is the significance of his statement? How is it different from the way we sometimes tell someone, “It’s all going to be ok”?
6. What happens in vv.28-31 when Peter asks to walk to Jesus on the water? What do you think of Jesus’ response to Peter when he begins to sink?
7. In what ways can we “take courage” as we seek to trust Jesus in the midst of the storms of our own lives?
8. In Matthew 28:20 Jesus says, “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” What is one specific way you are empowered to live differently when you are aware that Jesus is always present with you?