

Sermon Notes for 5/31:

**Matthew 14:22-33**—And right away, [Jesus] made his students board the boat and go ahead of him to the opposite shore [of the Sea of Galilee], while he sent the crowds away. Once he'd sent the crowds away, he climbed up a high mountain to pray on his own. And when evening came, he was alone there.

Now, the boat was already many stades away from land (a stade is about 600 ft), and was being pounded by the waves, as the wind was against them. And during the fourth watch of the night (near dawn) Jesus came toward them, walking on the sea. And, when the students saw him walking on the sea, they were frantic, saying, "It's a ghost!"; and they cried out in fear. But right away, Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be brave—it's me; don't be afraid." But Peter answered him by saying, "Lord, if it's you, order me to come to you on the water." So he said, "Come!" Then Peter got out of the boat, walked on the water, and went toward Jesus. But seeing how powerful the wind was, he was frightened, and as he started to sink, he shouted the words, "Lord, save me!" And right away Jesus stretched out his hand, took hold of him, and said to him, "You with hardly any trust! Why did you waver?"

And once they'd climbed up onto the boat, the wind stopped. And those on the boat prostrated themselves before him, saying, "Truly you are God's son."

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

"In the realm of faith, we aren't offered certainty as a shield against vulnerability. Bad things happen even to the most fortunate people. But that's precisely what it means to be a child in relation to God: We are vulnerable. We don't have the resources to protect ourselves from every reasonable threat. After all our protective maneuvers, we are still exposed to risk. To proceed with sufficient assurance, we are left with trust in a Higher Power who is committed to our ultimate good. Our shield is faith, or child-like trust." (Ken Wilson, *Solus Jesus*)

"Faith isn't something you ever simply achieve. It's not something that you ever nail down as a *fait accompli*. Faith works this way: Some days you walk on water and other days you sink like a stone. Faith invariably gives way to doubt before it again recovers its confidence, then it loses it again." (Fr. Ron Rolheiser)

"I had yet to learn the faithfulness of doubt. This is often assumed by the judgmental to be faithlessness, but it is not; it is a prerequisite for a living faith." (Madeleine L'Engle, *Walking on*)