

## What's the Worst that Can Happen? Pastor Morgan Murray West Valley Presbyterian Church

Text: Matthew 14:22–36

22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

25 During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

27 But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

28 “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

29 “Come,” he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”

31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. 33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

34 When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret. 35 And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to him 36 and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed.

Introduction: My first time riding downloading the app and riding an electric scooter back to the Ferry Building after mini golf during Fleet week. Erin: “I wouldn’t have done this if I were by myself.”

What makes a great Jesus story:

A great problem: Is this really God showing up when life is hard?

Struggling against the wind and the waves, the disciples see Jesus walking on the water. It's not a ghost, it's really Jesus – offering encouragement. The Lord is here.

A great invitation: Come out and join me if you want to!

Peter is bold – at least he starts out that way. And we get an amazing glimpse of his heart, his love and loyalty toward Jesus. Wherever Jesus is, that is where Peter wants to be. He's definitely a look-before-you-leap kind of person, and I can relate to that. I often say "Yes" to things, knowing full well I don't know enough! But Jesus seems to encourage this kind of behavior!

Jesus' invitations are always to take a chance in order to experience something unprecedented.

What's the worst that can happen? Drowning? No! Jesus is there to rescue. The worst thing that happens is Peter gets wet. No big deal. There is learning, growing from this.

A great take away question: You of little faith, why did you doubt?

What if Peter's lack of faith is not about Jesus. Jesus continues to stand on the water, whether Peter believes or not. It is about lack of faith in himself to be as Jesus is. Which is a big challenge for us, right? We continually say, "Well, but that's different. He's Jesus. He can do that. I can't do that. I'm not Jesus. I can't trust, forgive, love, heal, speak out, etc like Jesus. But that's precisely the point of the gospel. Jesus came to show us the pattern, to show us how to be as He is.

What does this story reveal about me, as a disciple?

What does the fact that this is my favorite Jesus story reveal about me as a discipler? That is, as I love people and share my love for Jesus with them, what should they expect?

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