

Day 1 -Sara Meeds HCC

Read

Matthew 14:22-33

22 Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. 23 After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone.

24 Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. 25 About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!" 27 But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!" 28 Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water." 29 "Yes, come," Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the strong[d] wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted. 31 Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?" 32 When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. 33 Then the disciples worshiped him. "You really are the Son of God!" they exclaimed.

Think

There is so much to be anxious about. Sometimes, we can see Jesus do something amazing or so good towards us, but in the very next moment, we are full of doubt about whether or not it will last or whether or not God is really as good as we might have once thought.

Reflect

This story is one I think of often as an over-thinker. I want to be practical and prepared...but often that looks like biting my fingernails off with stress as I think through all that might go wrong. I keep myself awake at night brooding over things that I have no control over. In this story, Peter is invited to do something that literally only Jesus himself has done—step out on the water and walk. But the sheer terror of the waves and the depth of what was beneath him terrified Peter. As trust began to dissolve so did Peter's footing. The opportunity to take in the beauty and magnificence of standing on the sea with Jesus began to sink. But even in the heights of Peter's anxiety and fear—even in the height of yours and mine—Jesus reaches out a hand with immediacy. He hears our anxious cries and pulls us up with compassion. He is the only one who can take on our fears.

Pray

Jesus, help me to be honest with you about what keeps me awake or stirs up my fears. Help me to loosen my grip on my anxieties and hand them over to you. Thank you for not shaming me when I am afraid. Thank you for immediately and compassionately holding me up. Amen.

Day 2

Braden Curalli

Read

James 4:13-17

13 Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." 14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. 15 Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. 17 If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

Think

As I was reading this week, this section in James 4 caught my attention. In this new season created by COVID, we often are left not being able to plan far in advance. For once, things of the future feel completely unknown. Will we ever go back to normal? Will things open up again? The truth is, we do not really know. When we look at the section of scripture above, one verse specifically stands out. Verse 15 gives me a great amount of peace during this season. Yes, we do not know what tomorrow holds but we can choose to be faithful today and every day. Living a life that follows Jesus is a constant choice that you make from the moment you wake up to the moment you go to sleep. The question is, no matter how long COVID reigns, are you going to live for Jesus today?

Reflect

For now, I would summarize verse 15 as, "I will follow Jesus today."

I hope that you can use this as an encouragement to live for Jesus. Maybe start by reading your bible, praying, or having a conversation about faith. Feel free to reach out to a leader or pastor.

No matter your situation, belief, or understanding, I hope that this week you choose to say, "I will follow Jesus today."

Pray

Lord,

I pray that I will choose you every day. That I will follow you, live for you, and love like you. May I be a light to those who do not know you.

I pray that I can see the ways you move this week.

Heal those who are sick

Help those who are weak

And liberate those who are oppressed

Day 3

Dan Self - WCC

Read

Luke 11:27-28

"A woman in the crowd called out, 'Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you.'

He replied, 'Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.'"

Think

This is one of those times where it seems like Jesus kind of one-ups someone for no reason, doesn't it?

What he's actually getting at, though, is something highly applicable to us today. This woman was offering Jesus blessing because he had just done something miraculous- he had just cast out a demon.

She was offering Jesus praise because he had done something remarkable. Jesus didn't see it this way, though.

Everything Jesus did was a response to the leading and teaching of God. In the kingdom of God, the demonic has no place. In the kingdom of God, sickness has no place. In the kingdom of God, oppression has no place. Jesus wasn't going around, doing cool things to gain recognition, but to point people to God.

Reflect

"Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

Sometimes it is easy to intertwine our worth with our ability: if we aren't doing something significant, then our walk with Jesus isn't as good.

God honors different things than the world honors, though.

God honors the small, hard steps of obedience that no one else sees.

God honors the prayers of a humble person.

God sees the difficult decisions you've made to draw closer to him.

It's possible that your obedience will not gain any earthly recognition, but God sees and God honors those things.

Pray

Lord, help me to understand what time of things you admire.

Help me to shift my focus from busyness and feeling like I have to do something significant in order to be worthy of anything to focusing on what small steps of obedience I can take toward you this week.

Day 4

Marty

Read

Prov. 16:9 We can make our plans,
 but the Lord determines our steps.

Psa. 37:23 The Lord directs the steps of the godly.
He delights in every detail of their lives.

Prov. 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart;
do not depend on your own understanding.
Seek his will in all you do,
and he will show you which path to take.

Think

God has a plan for us, and he delights in every detail of our lives. He cares about the plans you had for 2020, the school you go to, the friends you have, the friends you'll make, and your future hopes. Even though things didn't go the way we hoped in 2020, doesn't mean our life is over. God is currently directing your steps into the plans he has for your life. We can make our plans, while counting on God to direct our steps.

Reflect

What do you find encouraging in these verses? Where have you seen God directing your steps? How do these verses speak into your current situation? How do these verses help you with your future hopes and plans?

Pray

God, thank you for leading me and delighting in every detail of my life. I trust you and the plans you have for my life. Help me not lean on my own understanding. As I make my plans, help me rely on you to direct my steps and show me which path to take. In Jesus name, Amen

