

Grace Lutheran Community, 13 August 2023:
Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

The sermon text for today is based on
Matthew 14:22-33

Where are your eyes? What is it you look for each day? In life? Are you looking for someone or something that will make your life better? When you are in the midst of the storms of life who is it you see?

Today we pick up in St. Matthew's account of the gospel just after Jesus has fed 5000.

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.

Often we are so busy being busy that we forget that even Jesus the son of God stopped to rest and pray. Wouldn't our lives be so much simpler if we came to deeply know that rest is part of your daily vocation? God gives us rest not just on a Sunday or when we are finally in bed at night, but He calls us to rest in our lives both physically (which means we don't have to achieve everything on every list in our work for God before we can rest) rather we labour in God's field serving others and also take time to rest as part of that calling to follow.

Jesus our good shepherd leads us beside the still waters, He makes you, or leads you to lie down in the greenest pastures. We are called to rest and to pray. To stop taking that time to pray and be with our Father who continues to restore us through His word Jesus. The one who has authority over all things.

How often do you forget that Jesus is in charge? He is the Lord of your day and your night, your years and your seasons. How often do you forget that when you are falling it is Jesus who reaches out to take you by the hand?

So as Jesus was resting, praying and spending time alone which we would understand with His Father as He is one with His Father the disciples were continuing across the lake. What a contrast of this place of quiet and solitude with the multitudes He had just fed.

But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.

The sea was filled with chaos and evil and this ghost was frightening. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.

Now let's see what happens when Peter shifts His eyes from Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

How often do we take our eyes off Jesus when we are reminded to fix our eyes on Jesus in the book of Hebrews? In the storms in our life when we are sinking we take our eyes off the one who is the Lord of all. Jesus has authority over all things. And when we are falling we like Peter can cry out Lord save me.

And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

Jesus is the Son of God and He reaches out and takes hold of you when you cry out save me. Help me Jesus, hold me Jesus for He loves you and will never let you fall.

This week as you go out go to where Jesus is calling you. It may be among the winds of life yet step out in faith knowing that Jesus is calling you and He is with you always.

Amen