



DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE (at Castledaly)

Getting out of the boat (taking a risk) ... by Gareth

READ Matthew 14 vs 22-33

- So let us look at what is involved in this account (this story).
- The disciples were with Jesus. They had just witnessed Jesus feeding 5,000 men (Matt 14 v13-21)

The disciples get into the boat on the command of Jesus (obedience)

- Blessing comes from obedience. Think of the lives of Noah, asked by God to build an Ark (Gen 6 vs 14-16) or Abraham, called to another country away from his family and homeland. (Gen 12 vs 1-3)

The duration of the storm is in God's hand.

- When in the boat there was nowhere for the disciples to go, the storm commenced at approx 8pm and continued until the fourth watch (between 3am & 6am) of the night (v25) During that time there was no place to run or no place to hide.
- During the storm it is always a time of character building. James 1vs2-3
- There is vast difference sitting in a boat on a calm day compared with trying to sit in one on a rough windy day.

The appearance of Jesus is always at the right moment. (Jesus always shows up on time)

- Jesus has promised never to leave us or forsake us. Heb 13 vs 5. However sometimes our focus on Jesus is lost to us as we focus on the problem not on the problem solver

The call to come out of the boat.

- Never limit God by staying in the boat. It's not about your capability but about your availability. Peter is often criticised for getting out of the boat, but let's remember he asked if he could come (v 29) and once he received the invitation from Christ he stepped out of the boat.
- None of the other disciples took that risk by getting out of the boat.

There is always more in Christ than you have experienced thus far.

- Take that new step of Faith into the unknown and experience the all seeing & all knowing God in a new and deeper way.. Seeing a new dimension of Christ is awesome. Stepping into the unknown when Christ is asking you to do so is truly safe
- There is a certain comfort in the boat, but God is saying step out of the boat.
- Do a new thing; in doing so keep your eyes on Jesus.
- There will always be a sense of I can't do this when we look at ourselves.
- The more I go on with Jesus the more I realise it's not about what we have or haven't got to offer the Lord, but rather about our availability.

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WEEKLY EVENTS/NOTICES

Issue 26

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- During the course of the weekend in Castledaly we highlighted various ministries in the church that you can be involved in.
- Evangelism/Missions, Youth ministry, Young Adults, Children's Ministry, Worship, Sound/Media, Admin & Pastoral Care
- I believe Billy's recent news concerning sickness, is timely in that God wants to move our church rather His church forward by asking us to get out of the boat.
- The one requirement is availability.

Events /Notices

- ▶ **Late Night Prayer Saturday** 15th of July @ 8 pm
- ▶ **Friday Night Bible Study** will recommence on Friday the 7th of July @ 8 pm
(The bible study will take place every second week during the months of July & August)
- ▶ **During the service this Sunday** the 18th and also next Sunday the 25th there will be opportunity to testify what God has done during our time in Castledaly.

Extra Services

If you have children with you, these are the facilities provided:

▶ Crèche and Pre-school Praise

Our crèche is based on the floor above the Meeting Room with baby changing facilities and toys to keep your young child occupied if they do not settle during the meeting. Parents are to attend to their children at all times. There is a short and simple pre-school Bible lesson during the sermon for 3-7 years old in the Crèche (as arranged).

▶ Sunday School

Our Sunday School is open to children of school going age and operates during the sermon in the Sunday School room on the top floor. Our teachers have a Bible story and songs prepared for your child(ren), teaching them the need for Salvation and Christian living.

Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD (Psalm 34:11)

▶ Tea and Coffee

After the Sunday morning service, tea, coffee and light refreshments are available on the top floor in the Hospitality Room. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. (*Hebrews 13:2*).