To experience God’s goodness, you’ve got to get out of your boat

**Understanding courage**

**Monday**

Read Matthew 14:22-33, John 6:63

To experience God’s goodness, you’ve got to get out of your boat. **Journalize** the part of yourself you need to walk away from.

**Tuesday**

Read Matthew 14:27, Matthew 9:2, 22, John 16:33, Acts 23:11, Hebrews 4:16

If you will “take courage,” you will have courage. **Pray** about the first courageous step Jesus wants you to take.

**Wednesday**

Read John 1:35-51

The only way to walk toward Jesus, is to walk away from your selfish self. **Enjoy** being with Jesus today.

**Thursday**

Read Psalms 89:25, John 10:28, Matthew 14:31

Stubbornly refuse to go back to your “boat” today. **Meditate** on how you are in God’s hand.

**Friday**

Read Matthew 14:22-33, Matthew 16:24-26, Romans 2:4, Nahum 1:13, Galatians 2:20, Matthew 11:28-30

Stop making the waves your life bigger than Jesus. **Repent** of always staring at your problems and **start staring** at Jesus.

To experience God’s goodness, you’ve got to get out of your boat

**Matthew 14:22-33 New International Version (NIV)**

**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. Later that night, he was there alone, **24**and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

The boat represents our flesh - our natural selves without God. Our flesh can only get us part of the way to where we are going, but it will always fall short.

Your own strength, your own ingenuity, your own schemes and plans, your own design will only get you so far in life.

As Christians, our flesh will be buffeted by the storms and waves of this life. Why does Jesus allow this? To show us how useless and in effective our flesh is.

**John 6:63 New International Version (NIV)**

**63**The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life.

**25**Shortly before dawn 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.

When our flesh brushes against God’s supernatural, we can have all kinds of interesting reactions:

* Fear
* Confusion
* Ignore

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

Take courage - Take a pill, take some water, get some rest

COURAGE, *noun* [Latin , the heart.] Bravery; that quality of mind (**be** of good courage) which enables people to encounter danger and difficulties with firmness, or without fear or depression of spirits; boldness; resolution.  *courage* which arises from a sense of duty

Courage - the infusing of God's strength in you through the inworking of faith, an inner confidence that is Spirit-produced.

Matt 9:2 - Take courage, your sins have been forgiven

Matt 9:22 - Take courage, your faith has healed you

John 16:33 - Take courage, I have overcome the world

Acts 23:11 - Take courage, as you have testified of me in Jerusalem, you will testify of me in Rome

If you will take courage, you will have courage

**Hebrews 4:16 Contemporary English Version (CEV)**

**16**So whenever we are in need, we should come bravely (courageously) before the throne of our merciful God. There we will be treated with undeserved kindness, and we will find help.

Peter was the only one who took courage.

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

“If its you Jesus, I'll be courageous!!!”

“If it is You, I'll get out of my boat, out of my flesh, out of my natural self!”

Courage is what is needed to walk away from your selfish self and your old way of doing things.

**29**“Come,” he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

The only way to walk toward Jesus, is to walk away from your selfish self.

**Matthew 7:14 New International Version (NIV)**

14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

And the only way to leave your flesh, your selfish self behind, is to start looking at Jesus.

He will make you want to leave yourself behind.

**2 Corinthians 3:16 New International Version (NIV)**

**16**But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

**Psalm 34:8 New International Version (NIV)**

**8**Taste and see that the Lord is good;

    blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

**30**But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”

As you are making that transition walking away from your flesh to Jesus, other things are going to shout in your ear for your attention. Problems, distractions, temptations…but don't run back to your boat/flesh for safety. *Keep your eyes on Jesus*.

“Stubbornly refuse to go back to the bondage of the past”...stubbornly refuse to go back to your safe boat.

If you want the same results then keep doing what you have always done, but if you want a new life with better, higher results, keep looking at Jesus, no matter what wave is coming at you.

BTW…Do you know why Peter was able to walk on water?

**Psalm 89:25 New International Version (NIV)**

**25**I will set his hand over the sea,

    his right hand over the rivers.

**John 10:28 New International Version (NIV)**

**28**I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.

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

Courage will get you of the boat, but restful faith in God will keep you walking on water.

It took courage for Joshua to take the first step and attack Jericho, but faith in God kept him in the promise land.

My point is when you take the first step, you momentum and your confidence grows. So take your first step of courage.

*How can you have stronger faith?* By having less faith in yourself. Leave you boat and start walking with Jesus experiencing His goodness, walking in the Spirit. It should be your lifestyle, not something you just do ever so often.

**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.”

Get out of your boat; leave your selfish self behind

**Matthew 16:25-26 New International Version (NIV)**

**25**For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me *will find it*. **26**What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

* Walk away from your plans, and embrace God's plans.
* Walk away from your approaches to dealing with problems, and let God solve your problems.
* Stop trying to make things happen, and let God's sovereignty take charge.

Repent of clinging and clutching to your boat, to your old, ineffective way of living.

**Matthew 16:24 New International Version (NIV)**

**24**Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

What part of you do you want to deny? The part you don't like anyways!

The out-of-control self, the addictive self, the gluttonous self, the drunk self, the greedy self, the lustful, unfaithful self, the ambitious, cruel self, the depressed self, the lazy self, the incessantly sick self, the disabled self, the critical, judgmental self, the bi-polar self, the insane self, the insecure, fearful, worried self, the unforgiving, punishing self...that's the boat you want to get out of, that is the self you want to deny.

So what's this thing about taking up your cross?  It is repentance! The single most powerful thing you can do in your lifetime.

**Romans 2:4 New King James Version (NKJV)**

4 …the goodness of God leads you to repentance.

Sarah's bible study:

Repentance is surrendering to God's sovereignty.

“Repentance is not only turning from your sin to Jesus, it is turning from your problem to Jesus.”

It is ungodly and displeasing for you to turn your attention away from Jesus to your problem all the time...repent of doing that!! Also stop turning your attention to your failures all the time.

“Stop making the waves your life bigger than Jesus”...repent of always staring at your problems!!

Repentance makes you postured toward God....it turns you into a constant position of looking at Jesus.

“*Repentance strips you of your sin and clothes you with Jesus' freedom.”*

*“*Unchained, unyoked, uncaged, delivered!”

**Nahum 1:13 New International Version (NIV)**

**13**Now I will break their yoke from your neckand tear your shackles away.”

**Galatians 2:20 New International Version (NIV)**

**20I** have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**Matthew 11:28-30 New International Version (NIV)**

**28**“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.**29**Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30**For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

"When you take Jesus' yoke on you, you will never have another yoke forced upon you.”

By the way, how do you submit to God when you feel like you can't?

**Romans 8:7 New International Version (NIV)**

**7**The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so.

You simply repent! And the lack of submission will be broken in you life.