

**PENTECOST 10**

**AFTER FEEDING THE 5000**

**MATTHEW 14:22-33**

**AUGUST 9, 2020**

This is the aftermath of the feeding of the 5000. We know that Jesus was grieving the death of his cousin John. We know that Jesus was exhausted. We know that Jesus had done a miraculous deed in feeding 5000 people. Could he still summon up more compassion? He did. He sent his disciples out into the boat to go before him to the other side. Jesus wanted to be alone. He went up to the hills to pray. Later the disciples were in serious boat trouble. So just before dawn, and the boat being a half mile or more out on the lake and possibly sinking, Jesus walks on the water to the boat.

Some insights as to what happens next:

1. The disciples were terrified. They thought they were seeing a ghost on the water. When Jesus comes to you in the storms of your life, listen to what Jesus says. He said it to his disciples, he now says it to us: "Take heart, it is I, have no fear."
2. Peter is very brash. He thinks he can walk on water too. He sinks. Peter cries out "Lord, save me!" Many of our efforts to save ourselves ends up with a very sinking feeling. It happened to Peter, it happens to us. It is Jesus' job to save; he does. It is our job to row the boat.
3. There is a lot of nature relationship in this story. Jesus goes up to the hills to pray. Jesus is the Lord and master of wind and waves.
4. Jesus saves. Let's remember that in all of our earth and national crises. Scream all you want, but keep the faith. The hymn sings "the wind and the waves will obey my will. Peace be still."

The virus rages. It's billows are tossing high. Peace be still. Take heart, have no fear. Row the boat. Jesus is the master. Jesus saves. Anxiety and frustration can billow high in our lives. The non-anxious presence of Jesus can enter our souls. Let your soul be still. Peace.

Prayer: Be with us Lord. Be with us in the boat. Be with us in our illness. Give us peace. Amen.