

**NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**Year A August 10, 2014**

**Theme: Let's All Walk on Water**

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Wouldn't it be terrific to walk above all the **fierce storms and threatening waves of life?**

To never have to sink or swim in all the **muck of troubles** that engulf us, that at any moment could drown us.

But rather to **walk calmly atop it all**, oblivious to the sea monsters, the sharks lurking in the depths, waiting to chomp on us and destroy us,

Instead just casually **splash along the surface of life's swamp** without a care for what lies below it all.

Peter saw Jesus strolling on the surface of the storm-tossed Sea of Galilee in the darkest time of the night -- the fourth watch -- and he had no hesitation in asking to share the experience: **“Lord, if I really you, command me to come to you on the water.”**

He, too, wanted to **walk above it all**, to be free from the daily storms and the endless **waves of worry** and **frustration and disappointment and flat out weariness** that can be such a part of being human.

Now note in passing Peter's use of the title **“Lord,”** a title used not by the Apostles of the earthly Jesus, but by the Early Church of the Risen Jesus.

Perhaps this title is something of **a clue** to how we might approach this Sunday text and story unique to Matthew's Gospel.

While other Gospel writers tell of Jesus' walk on the water, **no other tells of Peter's bold attempt** to follow the Master's example.

Peter walked successfully on the water with **“the Lord”** for a few steps but when his faith faltered and he began to sink, he cried out again to the **“Lord”** – that is the Risen and Glorified One -- and was immediately rescued by Jesus’ outstretched arm.

Then, the Gospel writer Matthew penned, both Jesus and Peter got into the boat and **“the winds died down.”**

Could this story be **less a reporting of what happen** late one night on the Sea of Galilee:

That is, that Jesus **defied the laws of gravity** and walked on water and then gave Peter the power to do the same.

Could it be instead **a proclamation of the Good News** that Jesus has power over the waters of trouble that threaten to drown us and the waves of despair that loom over us?

If only we have unwavering faith in him.

And perhaps Matthew by including Peter’s brief walk on the water with the Lord was saying to his original readers, **look you don’t need the bravado of Peter and try to conquer the water yourselves:**

Just stay in the boat, keep the Lord Jesus with you there and as the text said: **“When the Lord and Peter got into the boat the wind died down.”**

**To sum up** the message then of this Gospel:

At times in our lives and world we sail **a rough and stormy sea in the dead of night.**

Do not be afraid: the Lord of life and death, of storm and sea, is here to reach out his hand to save us.

**With him in our boat cause for fear.**

There's a major crisis coming up at work and you don't know how you'll ever cope with it...

The doctor said you have to do a series of chemo treatments...

She told you she wants to break up and date other guys....

The President has ordered airstrikes in Iraq, and Israel and Hamas are at it again.....

I'm sorry but we just don't have any more orders. I have to lay everyone off immediately.

Russia has 40,000 troop poised on the border with Ukraine.

**“Take courage, it is I. Do not be afraid.”**