

# BETTER *word*

## *Week 3*

### **Matthew 14:22-33 (NIV)**

<sup>22</sup> Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>23</sup> After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray.

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

<sup>25</sup> Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.

<sup>26</sup> When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup> But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

<sup>28</sup> "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

<sup>29</sup> "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

<sup>31</sup> Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

<sup>32</sup> And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. <sup>33</sup> Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

### **Matthew 11:28 (NIV)**

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

- Jesus

Jesus offers **COURAGE** as a better word.

### **Isaiah 59:1 (NIV)**

"Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear."

We can take courage in the face of any fear because Jesus is **WITH US**.

## **How to take Jesus up on the invitation to COME to Him:**

- 1) Admit that you, like everyone, are in need of rescue through Jesus.
- 2) Ask God to forgive your sins by the sacrifice of Jesus.
- 3) Receive new life in God by trusting in Jesus as your Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

***Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to live for you all the days of my life. In Your name, Amen.***

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### **For Further Reflection:**

:: As you reflect on life this past week, what is something you are grieving? What is bringing you joy right now?

:: Reread Matthew 14:22-33

:: Where do you find yourself in need of COURAGE?

:: What is Jesus inviting you to 'COME' and trust him with?

:: As the rhythm of your life has shifted over the past week or so, how are you building in time to connect with God? How is Holy Spirit speaking to you in this space?

:: Have you ever missed the 'miracle' that God was doing because you were distracted by the circumstances surrounding it? Reflect on this. Ask Holy Spirit to keep you alert to the work of God around you.

:: Pastor Beth said, "Jesus' life demonstrates that the way forward is one of courage." What are some practical implications of that reality in your life? What difference does it make for you that He is with you in that journey?

:: The response of the disciples to Jesus' rescue was worship. How are you using worship as a response in this season of challenge?

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV].

Beth Cossin (@bethcossin) – March 28 & 29, 2020

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