

Small Group Discussion Guide
Sermon date: May 30, 2021 – Jazz Sunday
Series: Rooted in Faith
Sermon title: *Get Out of the Boat*
Text: Mathew 14:22 – 33

In the first, in-person service in over one year, this outdoor, historic sermon, interweaves the themes of faith, history, and Jazz to challenge the church to move beyond her comfort zone.

Summary

The context of the sermon finds the disciples separated from Jesus amid a violent storm at sea. Jesus came to them walking through the storm on the water. Peter requested to “get out of the boat” and join Jesus walking on the water. Jesus bid him to come. Despite the ominous winds and waves Peter was able to defy gravity only while focusing on Jesus. Getting out of the boat represents stepping out of our comfort zone and standing on Jesus’ word.

Most people don’t do what Peter did but rather remain in the confines and restrictions of safety and mediocracy.

Most people don’t get out of the boat of comfort like John the Baptist who spoke truth to power resulting in his death by beheading. Seeing the risks of living by conviction rather than conformity, John the Baptist’s younger cousin, (Jesus), was not deterred by John’s death. Being rooted in His faith, Jesus walked on water to reach His distressed disciples and He bids us to trust Him.

Sermon Points

- Sometimes we must push against the winds/waves
 - Greenwood, Oklahoma was an example of Black excellence that defied the structures of oppression
- Sometimes we need to make sense of problems through music and song
 - Gospel and Jazz are traditions that defy conventions
 - Duke Ellington – Come Sunday – depicts the struggles endured throughout the week contrasted with the celebration of victory on Sunday
- Sometimes Faith and Doubt often exist together
 - Peter declares – “Lord if it is you....”
- Peter walked on water
 - God gives us faith to do the impossible

Discussion Questions

1. Describe your comfort zones and how do they appeal to you?
2. Why was Peter the only disciple that dared get out of the boat?
3. What are some of the biggest hurdles you are facing? How can you overcome them?
4. How has music (Gospel, Jazz, etc.) help you get out of your boat?
5. Do we need to “get out of boats” of race, class, sexual orientation?