



June 24, 2020

ANOTHER STEP OFF THE BOAT

When the disciples were crossing the sea of Galilee by boat, Peter saw Jesus walking toward them on the water. Peter called out to him, and Jesus invited him to step off the boat and join him. (Matthew 14:25-33).

One of the great gifts of the gospels is how the disciples show us that the life of faith is supposed to be a mess of failed attempts and false starts. It makes us feel better about our own struggles to pray, to meditate, to be more generous, and to care for others. Of course we will make mistakes and try things that don't go very well. That's how we grow. That's what we expect to happen when we step out of the comfort of the boat.

When Peter heard the invitation, he stepped off the boat and he began to walk toward Jesus on the water. But then, as he looked at the wind and the waves and remembered where he was, he began to sink.

Faith is a series of steps off the boat. The faith journey is a series of steps toward God that will take us away from what feels familiar and safe. We are likely to feel ourselves sinking, but we will not go down.

When Peter began to sink, Jesus reached out and caught him. Before we ever step off the boat to move toward God, God has already come close to us, ready to catch us when we fall.

Peace,

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