

**Sermon Topic:**            **Stepping Out In Faith by Rev Teresa Wilborn**

**Sermon Text:**            **Read Mathew 14: 22-33**

There is a pattern in scripture of what happen when God wants to use & improve a life!

- There is always a **call**
- There is always **fear**
- There is always **reassurance**
- There is always a **decision**
- **There is always a life changed!**

In the Book of Exodus, God calls Moses to lead the people out of Egypt. But Moses initially did not respond as he felt he was inadequate.

Question:        How often do we sense God calling us to step out in faith and do something for Him? Does our fear stop us?

God empowered Moses to do great wonders and to lead the people out. He gave Moses the ability to do so.

We always ask God to affirm His calling to us through signs. When God's calling is persistent, His signs will follow. But do we see them? Do we step out in faith and be water walkers?

### **Characteristics of Water Walkers like Peter the Apostle**

1. Recognise God's presence
2. Discern between faith and foolishness
  - Peter acted out of truth and obedience. Courage alone is not enough, we need to have wisdom and discernment.
3. Expect problems
  - It will not be smooth sailing, but he his grace is sufficient will always provide in his time.
4. Accept fear and failure as the price of growth
  - Failure is not an event, but a judgement of an event
  - Story of Chuck Colson

5. Have a deeper connection with God
  - It doesn't mean you won't sink. But as Peter sank, he cried out to Jesus to save him.

Water walkers get out of the boat! A boat can metaphorically represent whatever we may put our trust in for security, other than in God Himself.

Questions:

- i. What are you gripping tightly to?
- ii. What is your boat?
- iii. What do you fear of giving up the most?

God ask us to use the step out and use our gifts and talents that we have received from Him to expand His Kingdom on earth. Will we step out with Him to do amazing things?

### **When we give our talents & gifts to God..**

- He multiples them (think of 5 loaves and 2 fishes that fed thousands)
- He treasures them (think of the widow's 2 small coins)
- He empowers our efforts (think of David and Goliath)
- He uses our efforts for His purpose (think of Esther)

God has a purpose for each of us, in our own area of influence in the world.

God is calling us to use our gifts and to step out in faith.

How much faith do you need? - Just enough to take a single step

*When God calls you, what would be your answer?*