

Today we have a special guest preaching.

Nate's dad, Ed Ladd, is here.

And he is recently retired and preached and pastored at Jacobstown Baptist in New Jersey for over 35 years.

So we're just really excited for him to come and share the word with us today.

And the passage we'll be reading today is Matthew 14, 22 through 33.

Immediately, he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side while he dismissed the crowds.

And after he dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray.

When evening came, he was there alone.

But the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves for the wind was against them.

And in the fourth watch of the night, he came to them walking on the sea.

But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified and said, it is a ghost.

And they cried out in fear.

But immediately Jesus spoke to them saying, take heart, it is I, do not be afraid.

And Peter answered him, Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.

And he said, come.

So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus.

But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink, he cried out, Lord, save me.

Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, O you of little faith, why did you doubt?

And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased, and those in the boat worshipped him, saying, Truly, you are the Son of God.

Thanks, Drew.

If you'll turn in your Bibles to Mark chapter 6, we're going to get back to Matthew.

Probably about a month and a half ago.

Nate called and said, hey, Dad, you want to come out and go fishing?

And we're going to go crappie fishing and walleye fishing.

And I'm like, yeah, sure, I'll come out.

And then he said, you want to preach one Sunday?

And I'm like, ooh, I haven't done that in four months.

Hopefully I can remember how to do that.

I said, okay, I'll preach.

And then he's like, you want to stay through Mother's Day?

So we can honor Mom.

I'm like, okay.

Okay.

And then he's like, let me talk to your mother.

And so then he talked to Nancy and said, hey, do you mind watching the kids?

And Lydia and I are leaving for a conference.

Yeah, it does, doesn't it?

I'm told I'm not allowed to farm the kids out.

So I'm open to stay at anybody's house for a couple of days if you're so inclined.

But Mark chapter 6 in verse 45, we have the same account.

So let's look at it.

It says, "...immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd.

And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray.

And when evening came, the boat was out of the sea, and he was alone on the land."

And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them.

And about the fourth watch of the night, he came to them, walking on the sea.

He meant to pass by them.

But when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and cried out, for they all saw him and were terrified.

But immediately he spoke to them and said, take heart, it is I.

Do not be afraid.

And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased, and they were utterly astounded, for they did not understand about the lows, but their hearts were hardened.

Then if you go to John chapter 6, I just want to show you the other account.

John chapter 6, in verses 15 through 25, it says, perceiving then they were about to come and taken by force,

That's not what I want.

Verse 15.

Verse 16.

This is why I didn't want to do this.

Verse 16.

When the evening came, his disciples went down to the sea and got into the boat and started to cross the sea to Capernaum.

It was now dark and Jesus had not yet come to them.

The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing.

When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat and they were frightened.

But he said to them, It is I, do not be afraid.

Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

As you read the passage, if you paid attention to Matthew and the Mark and the John one, you're going to learn different things.

Each writer kind of remembering things a little differently, some of the different details, giving different things, emphasizing different things.

Now, I personally think that's the beauty of the Word of God.

It doesn't try to fake us out into believing it's true.

It revels in the differences of the men writing and allows us to kind of wrestle with the realness of the small differences in the counts.

You know, if you're investigating a crime,

and you were interviewing the eyewitnesses, you'd be very suspicious if every eyewitness account was exactly the same.

You know, you'd believe somehow maybe they rehearsed this story, that somehow they're trying to fool me on something, so they're saying everything exactly the same.

I believe that's true, because that's what I learned on NCIS.

But the Bible doesn't do that.

It allows us to have some differences.

And so then, therefore, we can wrestle with those differences and figure out how they fit together.

And I'm not going to talk about every difference this morning.

You can do that later.

I just want to point out a couple of different things.

First, go back to Matthew.

We're going to spend most of our time in the book of Matthew, Matthew chapter 14.

In Matthew chapter 14, in verse 24...

It says this...

When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them.

It says in Matthew that it was a long way away.

It says that the disciples were many stadia in the book of Mark.

And John says they were 25 or 30 stadia.

In fact, in the book of Mark, it says they were far from shore.

So that's three or four miles.

See, how do you know that?

Well, you go to seminary, you go to Bible school, and you learn about stadia, or you look in your little study notes in your Bible.

That's what I did.

And it says it's about three or four miles from shore, and Jesus was up in the mountain, and he sees them.

And notice what Matthew says on why they were struggling.

It says they were struggling because the wind was against them.

The wind was driving the waves.

Now, as I read this and look through the different passages, I don't think this was a life-threatening storm.

Earlier in the book of Matthew, the disciples were in a boat and a storm kicked up.

In fact, the wording there leads us to believe that it was a demonic storm.

And the disciples were fearful.

Remember that?

Remember what Jesus was doing?

He was sleeping in the boat.

And they went and they woke him up and they didn't do that because they believed he could do anything.

They just believed that he wasn't concerned about their peril and misery loves company.

So they woke him up.

Now that storm, that storm was life-threatening.

This is a strong wind that was against them.

It was kicking up the waves and they were struggling.

They were just rowing, rowing, rowing, not getting very far.

You know, as we think through our application a little later, I think that distinction is important.

We do at times have storms in our lives where we believe our way of life or even our lives themselves are at stake.

But isn't it true that often we find that life is just a way of being difficult and

We're trying to walk in obedience to the Lord, as the disciples were in trying to go to the other side.

We're trying to row, but it just seems that we're going nowhere.

We're in a daily, hourly struggle that's wearing us down.

It wears us down spiritually and mentally and physically.

It's really a storm of endurance.

Are you going to continue on?

You believe in your heart,

I'm in the center of God's will.

This is where I need to be.

You're doing what God's asked you to do, but you're weary from the constant paddling every day.

And the other side seems so far away.

It seems like I've been rowing forever and I'm still in the middle of this trial of endurance.

Every day, head down, rowing with no joy.

Could be a job situation.

A job situation that you dread going to every day.

Every day you've got to drag yourself out of bed, put your head down, and paddle.

Could be health situations.

They're tough.

Every day dealing with pain.

Sometimes what's harder than you being ill is a loved one being ill that you're giving care to.

And you're a caregiver, and every day you need to be that caregiver.

Or maybe it's a wayward child who's disrupting your life in every way imaginable, and you're just trying to be faithful, trying to be wise, trying to love,

trying to be patient.

Or maybe it's your marriage, and it's not the dream that you imagined it was going to be.

Each of us in life face times of endurance, times of perseverance.

Now, I'm going to give you mine, and you're welcome to laugh at it because it's not a huge struggle, but it's the one that I find myself in the middle of because my wife and I are in somewhat a time of limbo.

When Nate asked me to preach, this is what we're struggling with.

As Drew said, we served at a church for about 34 and a half years, but we believed God was moving us on.

But we didn't believe he was moving us on to another church at that time.

And so we kind of retired to sit and wait until the Lord called us to do something else.

Now, we figured we should be around one of our children, and so we had two.

The other third one lived with us there in Jersey, and we couldn't stay there, and so we had to choose between coming up here to Jamestown with Nate, and at that time,

All there was was snow and ice and beautiful spring weather that you all are reveling in and it's 40 degrees.

Or Lynchburg, Virginia, where it's the home of sunshine, small taxes, and affordable living.

And so God really led us to Lynchburg.

Plus the housing was very cheap there.

I remember looking at houses and looking at the taxes.

I was from Jersey.

Our taxes are about \$10,000 a year for property taxes.

And I looked and those taxes were 8,000 a year.

And I told my son-in-law and he goes, what?

He goes, let me see that.

He goes, no, that's 800 a year.

I thought it was 800 a month.

I said, that's nuts.

He said, I don't know what you do with that money.

But anyway, so we moved four months ago and I've completed most of the projects around the house that I wanted to do around the house.

And we believe we might've found a church down there.

There's only like 40,000 churches on our road alone.

But for me, I don't see the other side of limbo.

We don't really know anybody down there.

I was talking to some folks and I was the pastor always.

And so you go and I don't mean this meanly, but you're trying not to have so many friends, right?

Because people want to know you and whatever down there, they could give a rip about me.

And so I don't even know how to make friends.

And so we're in this time of limbo.

And for me, it's a true matter of endurance.

I want to do something.

want to do something for the Lord but I don't want to rush ahead of him so I don't know what to do so as I was studying the word I came across this account and I connected with it and I said well I believe we're exactly where God wants us to be I believe that I'm doing what God wants me to do but all I'm doing is rowing every day I'm not really going anywhere I'm just kind of rowing and I

And I, in my mind, had kind of said, listen, this is going to take about a year.

And it's been four months, and I'm about done with it.

And so I'm just kind of rowing and rowing and rowing and rowing.

And I remember all the time when I've heard this passage preached.

And as I looked at how this passage is normally applied with Peter's faith, all it did was complicate my struggle.

Because I want to live by faith.

I want to be patient with the Lord.

I want to be like Peter.

But what am I supposed to do?

Am I supposed to stay in the boat and keep paddling because that's what God's called us to do?

Maybe my faith isn't strong enough.

If my faith was strong enough, I'd get out of the boat.

And then I'm thinking, I don't even know what that means to get out of the boat.

So it took me a while of wrestling with this passage until I believed I learned what God had for me in this midst of this endurance.

And that kind of leads us to the second observation about the difference.

Did you notice in the book of Mark, in the book of John, that they never spoke of Peter?

I mean, Peter walked on water.

That's kind of a big deal.

I mean, if Nate and I go fishing next Monday and he walks on water, I don't care.

I'll stick around another week and I'm going to come and tell you about it.

To hear pastor walks on water.

I was just as, I mean, that's a big deal.

But every message I probably preach myself or every message I've heard, we connect with Peter.

He's a human.

He's like us.

So we need to learn from Peter and from his example.

But which example are you supposed to learn from?

And so we would say, listen, be like Peter and have great faith and get out of the boat.

Right?

But don't be like Peter and take your eyes off of Jesus and sink.

And I thought, man, that doesn't really help me.

Because I don't know what it means to get out of the boat.

I don't know.

Obedience to me looked like what the disciples were doing.

He said, row to the other side, and that's what they were doing.

They were continuing to row.

But we don't even talk about the other disciples.

We continue to talk about Peter.

And I thought, well, perseverance and endurance, according to James, brings maturity.

So do I lack faith if I just want to keep paddling?

Do I lack faith if I'm going to take my time and wait for God to call me?

And I'm getting pressure from people.

For my wife, get out of the house, do something.

From friends, you know, what are you doing?

What are you gonna do now?

What are you gonna do all these things?

And I'm like, listen, I don't know what I'm supposed to do.

I'm just supposed to wait right now.

So I figured, as I looked at this, if Mark and John didn't mention Peter, then maybe this account is not really about Peter.

Maybe it's about something else.

Maybe this account isn't about stepping out in faith.

Maybe, and here's what I concluded, the lesson we're supposed to learn, and I'll learn from Peter, is not the stepping out in faith, but what drove him out of that boat.

You ever think about that?

I mean, what drove him out of that boat?

What would cause you to want to, in the midst of a great wind, get out of the boat?

What so overwhelms your heart?

What so overwhelmed Peter's heart that he had to get out of the boat?

You say, well, he saw Jesus.

That's true, right?

That's the correct answer.

But what did he see when he saw Jesus?

What was it about Jesus that overwhelmed his heart and his logic to get out of the boat?

It's not that Peter simply saw Jesus and thought, man, it'd be cool to walk on water.

I think I'd like to walk on water.

And so he gets out of the boat to walk on water.

What was it about Jesus that so moved Peter's heart that he had to get out of the boat?

See, for me, that's how I think I'll know if it's time to get out of the boat or not.

Is if I'm looking at Jesus...

And I'm so overwhelmed by him that I need to go to him.

When I'm looking at Jesus and I'll stop complaining about the fact that, Lord, it's been four months and I don't know what I'm supposed to do yet.

Right?

stop complaining about the endurance of every day getting out of bed and going to work, that I truly see Jesus.

And I forget about the paddling and the rowing, and I just have to get to Jesus.

I don't think Peter necessarily wanted to walk on water.

He had to be with Jesus.

Remember the writer of Hebrews?

The writer of Hebrews encouraged us to run the race with endurance.

But then he tells us how.

You know what that means?

Keep paddling.

Keep rowing.

But how do you do that?

Well, fixing your eyes on Jesus, the author and the finisher of our faith.

So, fix your eyes on Jesus.

How do you do that?

What does that mean?

Well, you fix your eyes on Jesus.

You look at Jesus.

What does that mean?

For Peter, it's kind of easy.

He was on the water.

So he fixed his eyes on Jesus.

But the other disciples saw Jesus.

They saw him too.

What'd they think?

They thought he was a ghost.

See, that's the key.

You must, when you see Jesus, see him for who he truly is.

See him as the word of God betrays him.

You have to see him in his fullness.

When the Holy Spirit guides you to do that, then you're gonna react like Peter.

And you know who else?

Remember Nicodemus?

Nicodemus saw Jesus.

And what did he say?

I must see Jesus.

Because he knew who Jesus was.

So using my hopefully Holy Spirit guided imagination, what could have been in Peter's mind?

And I want to give you two or three passages from the Old Testament that are about God and about Jesus, the fulfillment of Jesus, that help me

to see him in his fullness.

You all right with that?

We got a couple minutes.

They told me, I thought it was at 11.

Drew was very nice and said, no, it's at 11.45.

So we got a long time, and we're good.

Turn in your Bibles, if you can, to 2 Kings.

Let me just show you a couple passages that come to my mind when thinking about Jesus.

Let's do this quickly.

2 Jesus 6.

2 Jesus.

Did I just say 2 Jesus?

This is why I didn't want to do this.

2 Kings 6.15 You'd think that was because I haven't done this for four months, but I did that kind of stupid stuff all the time.

2 Kings 6.15 When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots were all around the city.

And the servant said, Alas, my master, what shall we do?

Well, he said, Do not be afraid.

for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.

Then Elisha prayed and said, O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see.

So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

That's a cool passage, isn't it?

And it tells us a ton about God, right?

Because sometimes he places us in difficult situations.

I mean, I'd be like Gehazi, the servant.

You wake up and the army surrounded him and said, oh man, they found us.

And Elisha's like, hey, be cool.

It's all right.

Because greater that are with us than are with them.

What?

Open his eyes, Lord.

And boom.

He sees the supernatural.

He sees the army of the Lord of hosts all around him.

And I wonder if that's what drove Peter out of the boat.

Maybe he was thinking about this passage.

But he realized, well, here's the supernatural deliverer that has come from God.

This is the one that's above all physical circumstances.

I need to go with him.

Do you ever think about how Jesus was walking on the water?

How do you picture Jesus walking on the water?

Is he like

getting beat by the wind, hitting the waves, coming back two steps forward, three steps back.

You don't picture him that way, right?

How do you picture him?

He's walking on the water, probably pretty quickly, right?

Because he had to make up two, three miles in order to catch up to these guys, right?

And so Peter sees that, and he sees what?

Wow, there is peace.

There is calm.

There is where I want to be.

Remember Mark?

In the book of Mark, it says what?

Jesus intended to pass by them.

Does that not freak you out?

It did me.

And so I'd always, when I preach this, have to come up with an application for that.

Well, the disciples, remember when they're feeding the 5,000, because that's what happened right before this, and Jesus said, get them lunch.

The disciples said what?

Send them away.

And so Jesus was treating them just like they treated those people.

That's what I used to say.

But then I kind of studied the Bible, that always helps.

And there's an alternative translation to this.

And what it means is that he was gonna walk parallel with them.

What it meant was really this, and it's hard.

Instead of walking right to the boat, right?

Jesus was gonna walk right beside the boat.

And it looked like he was gonna pass, but he's just gonna walk with them.

He wasn't walking to them.

He was gonna walk with the boat.

Isn't that a beautiful picture?

is that Jesus was walking out there to walk with them.

And there's peace and there's calm with Jesus.

I have a little sign that I had made up and I hung it by my desk, even now in my little basement office.

Sometimes we need to stop telling God how big the storm is.

Isn't that what you're doing when you're enduring?

You're paddling away.

Lord, this job stinks.

I can't stand this.

My marriage is so hard.

My child just will not repent.

And you're always telling God how big the storm is, and that's okay.

But sometimes you need to stop doing that.

You need to start telling the storm how big your God is.

My God's huge.

My God can deliver me.

The enemy may be surrounding you.

The wind may be howling, but you've got to allow the Spirit of God to open your eyes and show you that

Truly what the Lord God is doing.

And maybe Peter had this in his mind.

Well, let me give you another one that really helps me and maybe Peter had it.

Go to Psalm 121.

I just like this picture.

I don't know when you grew up.

I grew up.

And my dad had the clicker, which was me, by the way.

We didn't really have a clicker.

And we watched Westerns all the time, right?

The Westerns were popular there.

And so when I read Psalm 121, I think of those Westerns.

I lift up my eyes to the hills from where does my help come?

My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved.

He who keeps you will not slumber.

Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper and the Lord is your shade on your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil.

He will keep your life.

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

Those Westerns, man, good guys in trouble, surrounded, it's a problem.

What comes over the hill?

Here comes the Calvary, right?

Blowing a little trumpet.

And this is what I picture this.

When you're in trouble, who comes up over the hill?

I look for the help from the hills, and here comes my Lord, right?

And that's what Peter saw.

Jesus coming down from the mountain, seeing him walking in the water, coming to him.

And I wonder if that was in his mind.

when it made him get out of the boat.

One last one.

Look at Isaiah chapter 43.

Peter only had the Old Testament, so this is what he might have been thinking.

It's a great passage, right?

You know this passage.

Isaiah 43, 1 and 2.

But now, thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel, fear not, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.

And through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you.

And when you walk through the fire, you shall be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I wonder if Peter was thinking about that.

He says, God, I get it.

Right?

Here is the one who's going to deliver us.

Here is my Savior.

Here is how you're going to do that.

Here is Jesus.

And he said, listen, I have to be with Jesus.

Or if you're back in Matthew 14, maybe we're making this more complicated than it was.

What happened right before this?

It's the feeding of the 5,000.

It says later that the disciples didn't understand this, but maybe Peter did.

What do you think Peter saw in Jesus after the feeding of the 5,000?

You think he saw his wisdom?

His compassion?

Not only his compassion, but his power to solve every issue and problem?

See, my point is this.

My point is that you fix your eyes on Jesus, but you have to know who Jesus is.

And you know who Jesus is through his word.

He's the God who's in control of those armies.

He's the God who's going to come over the hill as he did in the incarnation and save us.

He is the God who is the deliverer.

You don't define him by your circumstances that are causing the endurance.

You define him by his word, his promises, his coming in the incarnation.

You define him by his work on the cross.

See, if you do that, then you realize your circumstances are nothing to him.

He's going to come do what?

He's going to come out of that mountain and walk beside you.

So to me, this wasn't really a story about Peter's faith.

It was a demonstration of who Jesus is and we're called to endure.

So let's look at Jesus one more time really quickly from this passage.

Number one, Jesus saw them from the mountain, knew their struggles.

and he came to them to walk with them.

Does that not remind you of Jesus coming to earth to save us?

Jesus sees you.

He's so far away, it seems.

But he still sees you.

And when your struggle is too much, what does he do?

He comes down out of the mountain, and he's going to walk beside you.

You saw that proven out in Israel's history, in the lives of the disciples, and in the incarnation.

He sees your struggles, and he walks right with you.

Number two.

All these years, I've been meditating on the fact that Peter just took his eyes off Jesus.

And I usually cut Peter a break.

I mean, I don't think I'd have enough gumption to get out of the boat.

Jesus, or Peter, had enough faith to get out of the boat.

And yes, he took his eyes off Jesus and started looking at his circumstances again, and he began to sink.

We talk about that all the time.

But what about this fact?

I'm a crier, Drew, so I try not to.

Baptist preachers cry and take offerings.

What about the fact that Jesus, four months of this, Jesus never took his eyes off Peter.

You ever think of that?

Jesus never takes his eye off you.

He sees you from the mountain.

He sees you as he walks towards you.

He saw Peter get out of the boat, and he saw Peter fail.

Jesus' eyes were always fixed on Peter.

It's a great point and we need to teach our kids and we need to do it ourselves.

You need to fix your eyes on Jesus and you need to know who he is.

But part of fixing your eyes on Jesus is understanding and knowing who he is and who is he.

He's the one whose eyes are always fixed on you.

That's an amazing thing.

Sometimes we think when we're going through difficult times, we think, man, I don't think Jesus sees this.

I don't think he knows.

He knows and he sees and he's walking right there with you.

Number three, Jesus is where the place of peace is.

Can't find peace in your time of endurance?

Fix your eyes on him, walk with him, and it's a place of peace.

It doesn't matter how strong the winds are.

Doesn't matter how contrary things are to you.

Doesn't matter how hard things can be.

You can still be in a place of peace.

I'm saying it's hard.

We're like Peter.

We look at Jesus, then we take our eyes off.

We look at Jesus, then we take our eyes off.

We look at Jesus, sink it, look right back.

Right?

It's hard.

But Jesus is the place of peace.

And if you're looking at Jesus and you're walking him in a place of peace, here's what I've concluded.

If it's time to get out of the boat, whatever in the world that means, he'll make it clear.

Right?

Or otherwise, just keep paddling.

Now, let's go to this last one.

Go back to John chapter 6.

This is really quick.

John chapter 6.

I know it's time to quit.

John chapter 6.

Did you notice this in John chapter 6?

In verse 21, that there's two miracles.

In John 6, verse 21, there's a second miracle.

Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

What does that mean?

Did he somehow transport the boat?

I don't know.

It just says immediately they were at the land that they were going.

I'm not sure I know exactly what it means, but I realize this.

When my eyes are fixed on Jesus, when I'm learning and growing in Him, the next thing that I will know is that I'll be on the other side.

Right?

I won't be focused on the endurance.

Next thing I know, I'll wake up and I'll be on the other side.

Because my eyes are fixed on Him, and that time of endurance will be short.

Now, think through the Bible.

Times of endurance.

Abraham, 25 years to wait for his kids.

Right?

David, how many years do you have to wait?

Jacob, how many years do you have to wait for his wife?

Long periods of time.

But here he says what?

Immediately they're on the other side.

Fix your eyes on Jesus.

Next thing you know, you'll wake up.

You'll be on the other side and you'll be doing what God has called you to do and he will solve your issue.

Solve through the scriptures.

Right?

Impossible situations.

Jesus, God shows up and it's solved.

So here's my prayer.

Hopefully it's your prayer.

Lord, help me to be like Mark and John, to be so overwhelmed by who you are that Peter walking in the water is not even worth mentioning.

Let's pray.

Father, thank you for your word.

Thank you how it reveals who you are to us, your character, that these are not just events.

And yes, Lord, we do learn from the people in the Bible.

But Father, I don't know what it means at this time to get out of the boat or have more faith or keep, I don't know.

But I do know that what overwhelmed Peter's heart was who Jesus is.

And so I pray this, that my heart would be overwhelmed by who you are, Lord, that I will continue to learn, continue to learn of who you are in times of patience, in times of struggle, in times of joy, that I may know your character through and through, that I may

I preach the gospel to myself every day.

And not just the events of the gospel, but to know your heart.

That you came to us in our time of greatest struggle.

That you provided the way of salvation.

You opened the eyes of my heart.

And you saved me.

And so therefore I can trust you.

And you promised to walk beside me through every difficult time.

And so, Lord, may I get my eyes off of the circumstances and put them on the fact that you're there with me, and you're there with me, and you bring peace.

In my name I pray.

Amen.