

"I Am"

Who Jesus was... is... and will be.

Week 2 – Is

Prayer of Invocation

God of the winds and waves, give us the courage to follow you, to get out of the boat when you call, and to reach out for your hand when we fall.

Check-in

How was your week? Where did you see God at work in your life since we met last? And, as we get into the part of the story where Peter “goes swimming,” what is your favorite water activity? Ready, go!

Scripture

Today's scripture is the second part of the story that is the basis of this entire series. After preaching and teaching and healing and performing miracles all day, Jesus has spent some time alone. Now, he decides to rejoin his pals out on the boat, and walks on the water out to where they are. They think he's a ghost, and are terrified. But he reassures them, saying, “don't be afraid, take courage. It is I.” Or, “I am.” Here's where the story gets personal... Peter, in typical Peter fashion, decides he's going to do something crazy.

²⁸ “Lord, if it's you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

²⁹ “Come,” he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

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

Discussion Questions

1. What stands out to you about this story? Would you have been a disciple still in the boat? Or would you have been Simon Peter, jumping out into the waves?
2. As we continue our series, trying to answer the question, “why does Jesus still matter?”, today, just as the story gets more personal for Peter, we make it more personal for us. Last week we looked at who Jesus claimed he *was* through this story, but Peter now makes a claim about who Jesus *is* to him. So, our question for today will be, “why does Jesus still matter... to *you*?”

For Peter, the first thing Jesus does is encourage him to get out of the boat. All he has to do is say one word, and Peter’s confidence in the power of Jesus gives him the motivation to do something crazy, leave the safety of his companions, and leap out onto the water. For Peter, it’s as if Jesus is saying,

I Am... Courage.

Jesus is a source of courage for Peter... courage to take a risk, courage to leave his comfort zone, courage to step out into a scary situation that could have been amazing!

Share a time in your life when your faith in Christ called you to step out into the unknown. Maybe it was a mission trip or a service project that was out of your comfort zone? Maybe it was a conversation with a friend that turned into a God-moment? What was the risk? What was the reward?

3. The second thing Jesus does for Peter is to save him. It’s all going great until Peter looks around him, sees the wind and the waves, gets scared, and begins to sink. He cries out to Jesus, “Lord, save me!” The scripture says Jesus *immediately* reached out and grabbed him. To Peter, Jesus is saying,

I Am... Help.

This is one of the best parts of the whole story. Jesus could have let him sink, “dude, you got yourself into this mess, get yourself out. I’ll be on the boat eating snacks.” But he doesn’t. He caught Peter. Peter takes a risk. It works for a bit. And when it goes south, Jesus is there to catch him.

Jesus is there to catch us, too. It doesn’t mean that bad things won’t happen in our lives... Jesus doesn’t stop the wind. He doesn’t calm the waves. He simply lifts Peter up. If we cry out, “Lord, save me,” Jesus will catch us, too.

Where do you turn for help when it feels like you’re sinking? Is it a natural thing for you to ask Jesus for help? What prevents you from turning to him?

Closing

That’s why Jesus still matters, not just because of who he claimed he *was*, but also because of who he *is* to us, presently. To Peter, Jesus was a source of courage and help. Who is Jesus to you? We’re going to close with an exercise. Grab a piece of paper and a pencil, put on the song “Oceans,” by Hillsong United, and answer the question...

Who Jesus is to you?

Having an answer to this question is important as we look toward the last part of this series, who Jesus *will be* to the world around us. Because that’s our job. That’s our role as Christians, to help the world around us answer this question for themselves. So, today, embrace who Jesus is to you. And next week, we’ll talk about how to take that answer to the world.

Close in Prayer