

•Matthew 14:22-33

☑ **Grab your Life-vest**

•If you've ever been on a cruise then you know that this is the way it always starts.

•*Prepare for the worst. Hope for the best.*

•Surfers however...

•*Prepare for their best and hope for the best*

•Hoping for the best of waves. And that means BIG WAVES!

•*Overcoming how insignificantly tiny you are versus the power of the ocean changes people.*

•*Aquaphobia- is a persistent and abnormal fear of water.*

•My Surfing experience

•The greatest experiences are often the scariest, and the scariest experiences are often the greatest.

• **“So here is my question: Are you living your a life that is worth telling stories about?”**

•*Do you know how vaccines work?*

•*Vaccines expose people safely to germs, so that they can become protected from a disease.*

•You've got to be exposed to small quantities of whatever you're afraid of. That's how you build up immunity.

•*Neil won't take a cruise because of an experience on a fishing boat.*

•**“God is in the business of strategically positioning us in the right place at the right time. But the right place often seems like the wrong place, and the right time often seems like the wrong time.”**

☑ **The presence of a storm does not indicate the absence of God.**

•All kinds of storms... Health, financial, emotional. Storms people can't see.

•God has a way of personalizing your storm.

•**V.28 Peter- *He does not fear the unfamiliar but rather he is drawn to it.***

•He's already in a storm. Now he's seeing ghost!

•**“Lord- *If that's you tell me to come out on the water!*”**

•Not exactly what I would say.

• **But he was saying- If that's Jesus, then I'm safer on the water than I am in the boat!**

• Jesus used the storm as a means of helping Peter grow in the faith.

• He's taking a step from SURVIVING to THRIVING.

~ Here's the **BIG IDEA...**

☑ Waves don't hide Jesus. They reveal Him.

• WAVES ARE GOD'S MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION

• The VERY THING the disciples feared, the raging sea, was the very thing God used as His vehicle to come to them.

• He uses the element we dread as the path for His approach.

• The very thing you fear will be the vehicle He uses to show up in your life!

• *The literal reading for "It is I" is "I am"*

• *Surviving is what you can do.*

• *Thriving is what only God can do.*

• *Surviving is paying it safe.*

• *Thriving is taking risks of faith!*

☑ God doesn't waste a wave.

• The Storm is about to Give More Than It Could Take!

• He's about to Risk it ALL!

• *"When [Peter] saw the wind, he was afraid and beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"*

• *Which voice are you going to listen to?"*

• *Jesus is saying WALK. The Waves are saying SINK.*

• **When in a storm The Waves or the Word will have preeminence in your life.**

• *What do you do when the Wave feels BIGGER than the Word?*

• Peter Sank!

• *He's the only disciple who sank in Galilee.*

• *He's the only one who walked on it.*

• It's so easy to criticize Peter from your comfortable seat on the boat.

• I think there are two kinds of people in the world:

• There are people who get out of the boat and walk on water.

• And there are people who sit in the boat and criticize water walkers.

• Here is what I think: *Sinking is better than sitting.*

• When everything is said and done, I think our greatest regrets will be the God-ordained risks we didn't take. **We won't regret sinking. We will regret sitting.**

•Jesus Caught Him!

• *I will get out of this!!!*

Every 7th Wave

•What do we do when we feel the first one?

•We grab our life vest and pray we can hold on until the 7th wave.

•When we feel the first we have this feeling of dread- It only gets worse from here. If we can just make it past the 7th.

• We put our faith on a point. Get past the point and I'll be alright.

•But not a surfer. He swims toward the 7th.

•For him a bigger wave just means a greater ride.

•They don't hide from what they fear. They go after it!

Tell someone- Swim toward the 7th!

•*Proverbs 24:16 For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again,*

•*Psalms 119:164 Seven times a day I praise You...*

•*2 Kings 5:14 So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.*

•*1 Kings 18:44 Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, "There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea!"*

•7 Times on the 7th Day

•*Joshua 6:15 On that day only they marched around the city seven times. 16 And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: "Shout, for the Lord has given you the city!"*

Use Your Wave

•This is not what drowns you but propels you.

• **The wave that should have defeated you and taken you under is about to elevate you!**

•tell someone- watch out! I'm about to use my WAVE.

•What the enemy meant for my evil, God's gonna use it for my good.

•I'm gonna turn this sickness into a healing ministry.

•I'm gonna turn this failure into an opportunity to start again!

•What you tried to **SURVIVE**, THIS TIME you're going to **THRIVE!!!**