



# CELL GUIDE 2016

Theme	Sharing Christ Beyond Church & Country
Topic	Walk on Water (Matthew 14)
Speaker	Ps Nicky Raiborde
Date	18 <sup>th</sup> September 2016

## Message Summary

### The Need for that Injection of Faith

In *Matthew 14:22-33*, Jesus walks on water to save His disciples who were battered by the waves at sea. When Peter saw Jesus, he stepped out of the boat towards Jesus. It was faith that prompted Peter's bold move to step onto the water towards Jesus as He commanded; and the subsequent lack of faith that caused Peter to sink.

Using Matthew 14 as the baseline, Ps Nicky Raiborde shared with us three types of believers that he has encountered throughout his time ministering to others:

- a) **Foggy Christians** – Those who do not dream big things for God.
- b) **Frustrated Christians** – Those who do dream, but seldom see things happen as they don't seize opportunities.
- c) **Fulfilled Christians** – Those who do dream and who see things happen in their lives as they live with a sense of purpose.

His key concern are the frustrated Christians. These are believers who are always **exhausted**, full of **excuses**, constantly comparing their lives with others (**envy**) and feeling a sense of **eagerness** in their lives but having no direction. Believers need a jumpstart in their lives, to recharge themselves with energy and faith to come back to the Lord – for without faith, it is impossible to please God.

In order to keep our faith steady and alive, we need to stay within that boundary line of faith that is designed and drawn by the Word of God. As we stand on God's Word, labouring and serving Him, God will be our reimbursement, our reward to restore everything that we had. Therefore, we need that constant injection of faith in order to finish God's work that has been started in our lives.

### Life Lessons from the Scripture

In this sermon, Ps Nicky shared with us several life lessons from *Matt 14:22-28*:

1. We are given the choice of the destination we want to go, but God chooses the route (v.22).

We can choose where we want to go, but only God gets to choose the path towards that destination. Ps Nicky told the story of Jonah who avoided the path that God set out for him but God merely "recalculated" Jonah's route and brought Jonah back to His desired path. In the same way, we can have many plans, but the Lord's purpose will prevail. All God asks of us is to anchor ourselves in His Word and trust in Him, and He will lead and guide us in His will.

2. When God seems silent and absent, He is calling us to trust Him(v.23).

There will be times when it seems like God is silent, but in fact, He is waiting for us to take action, for we have been given the authority to take charge of our own lives. And as look we back, we will realise that God's silence at times does not mean that He has forsaken us. Instead, His silence is a call for us to trust His promise and purpose through our faith in Him.



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3. Although God's help and resources might be near, they must be invited and activated through our faith and action (Mark 6:48).

Ps Nicky considers faith and action as the keys to activating God's help. Although prayer (=faith) is important, by itself is not enough, we need to also plant the seeds (=take action) in order for God's help and resources to reach us. The Scripture guides us and will help us find the keys, thus it is important for us to anchor and immerse ourselves in the Word of God so that we may have the faith to take action.

4. Joy is the key factor that creates an environment for God to work in (v.27).

An environment of uncertainty and discouragement prevents God from working in our lives. In order for God to help us, we need to change our environment into a positive one by praying to God so that our lives may be filled with joy that comes from within. As believers, we should always have time to pray to the Lord, for the joy of the Lord is our strength and it creates perspective. God will start to work in our lives when we live our lives from the inside out.

5. Fear is disempowered by voice command (v.27).

In the Bible, there are 366 "fear not" promises from God, one for each day to remind us to "fear not" and trust Him. All of us are bound to have fears in our lives, but God is always there for us to lean on.

6. We must learn to recognise life-changing opportunities in desperate circumstances (v.28).

Often, we fail to see opportunities in the midst of the desperate circumstances we are in. Yet, it is only through such situations where we find our faith being tested and best developed. Not many can be like Peter in *Matt 14:28* who grabbed the opportunity when he saw it. As we face the difficult seasons of our lives, pray to God that He will touch our eyes to recognise these life-changing opportunities.

7. We must leave something behind to move forward (v.28).

Peter is willing to let go of the familiar and step in to something unfamiliar. This is something we must do in order to move forward. Many people want to live their lives by faith but are unwilling to let go as they fear the unknown. However, as believers, we need to be like Peter who trusted God's command. We must learn to let go if we want to move forward.

## Conclusion

Jesus is calling for us to step out of the boat and follow Him despite the storm. As long as we journey in faith in the Lord and obey His commands, no amount of obstacles can hinder us from taking that step of faith towards the unfamiliar ground where God wants us to be. Therefore, go and step out of the familiar zone that you are so used to and trust that the Lord's purpose will prevail.



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## Questions

(a) What are some “boats” in your life– things that seem stable (in which we cling on) but do not provide true stability in times of storm?

(b) What are the “storms” that you have faced/are facing – things that has kept/is keeping you from stepping out of the boat?

(Fill In Answer Here)

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2. Joy is the confidence we have in God. What is the difference between joy and happiness? How does joy create the environment for God to work in?

(Fill In Answer Here)

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3) Taking responsibility is the key theme in the lessons drawn out from Matthew 14:22-28 but there are also several life lessons shared by Ps Nicky. What is one lesson you want to apply in your life today?

(Fill In Answer Here)

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