

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

GALES

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Introducing the Gospel

Jesus stills the storm (Matthew 14: 22-33)

Jesus and the disciples had come away by boat to find a quiet place. Instead they found a crowd of five thousand people. After Jesus had taken five loaves and blessed, broken and distributed the pieces to feed the crowd, he sent the disciples back into the boat and he withdrew up the mountain to pray. The winds rose quickly, the sea was stirred up and the disciples were afraid. Jesus came to them through the gale and the wind dropped. Here is good evidence that Jesus does not desert his disciples in their hour of need when buffeted by the gales of life.

Our image to stimulate reflection on Matthew's account of Jesus stilling the storm is *gales*.

Core extract from the Gospel (Matthew 14: 29-32; for reflection throughout the week)

So Peter got out of the boat,
started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus.
But when he noticed the strong wind,
he became frightened, and beginning to sink,
he cried out, 'Lord, save me!'
Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him,
saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?'
When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

Gospel prayer (for use throughout the week)

Lord Jesus Christ,
you came to Peter
when he was in distress.
Come to us when we are battered by the storms of life,
that we may grasp your steady hand;
for you are our God.
Amen.

READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Matthew 14: 22-33

Jesus Walks on the Water

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME

Dwelling with the text (Matthew 14: 22-33)

Begin to explore Matthew's account of Jesus stilling the storm by employing the SIFT approach of Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking. You may find that one of these approaches comes easier to you than the others. But it is worth trying all four.

- What details in the passage catch your attention (Sensing)?
- What big ideas in the passage spark in your mind (Intuition)?
- What most touches your heart in the passage (Feeling)?
- What most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage (Thinking)?

Thinking and talking

Identify topics within the passage that can get you thinking and talking. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- What do you make of Jesus sending the disciples away?
- What do you understand by Jesus calming the storm?
- What do you make of Jesus walking on the water?
- What do you understand by the encounter between Jesus and Peter?
- What does this narrative say for us today?

Using your Bible

Explore how Matthew develops Mark's account of the storm by adding the narrative about Peter attempting to walk on the water:

- Mark 6: 45-51

Explore how John's account also tells of this storm following the feeding of the five thousand:

- John 6: 15-21

Explore passages in the Old Testament that speak of the destructive power of wind and waves:

- Psalm 65: 5-8
- Psalm 89: 5-10
- Psalm 107: 23-32

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Exploring online

Widen your exploration of Matthew's account of Jesus stilling the storm by looking up some of the following themes and others of your own choosing.

- Pictures and videos of storms at sea
- Godly Play Jesus calming the storm (YouTube)
- Classic art of storms at sea

Drawing on experience

The image to stimulate reflection on Matthew's account of Jesus stilling the storm is *gales*. Draw on your experience of gales. For example:

- Reflect on your experience of being caught in a gale.
- Reflect on your experience of the damaging effect of wind and water.
- Reflect on your experience of being buffeted by the gales of life.

What have you learned about gales?

Creating and making

This section offers pointers to some creative activities that may be inspired by Matthew's account of Jesus stilling the storm or by the image of gales.

- Make a model boat for Jesus and his disciples.
- Collect pictures of storms at sea and on land for a poster: Jesus calmed the storm.
- Create a collage showing the storm, the boat, Jesus, and Peter.
- Create a reflection, poem or prayer on the theme of Matthew's account of Jesus stilling the storm or on the image of gales.



**Liverpool
Cathedral**

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Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales.



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