Sermon: **Lord, if it is really you, order me to come out on the water to you. (Matthew 14.28)**

Is the feeding of 5000 (Matthew 14.13-21), feeding of 4000 Matthew 15.32-37 the same story or different?

Jesus walking on water (Matthew 14.22-33) and calming a storm (Mt 8.23-27). Are they the same story?

Mt 8 – storm, Jesus on boat, disciples afraid of storm, they wonder who Jesus is.

Mt 14 – no storm, Jesus on water, disciples afraid of Jesus, they know he is Son of God.

Though much in common (waves/wind, boat, fear), they recall different events.

TEXT. Question: why does Peter want to walk on water?

Though the conditions were difficult, they would not be a surprise for a fisherman. No mention of lives in danger. Simpler to stay on the boat. But Peter wants to prove the vision is real, and that means walking on water. Still a bit loopy! Remarkably he does so to start with, only failing when he notices the wind.

For me the story is about leaving our comfort zones and taking risks.

What is a comfort zone? Areas of life where through natural talents and experience we feel confident.
For me, writing sermons. For many, knitting. For others, leading children’s ministry.

It also involves familiar people, places & situations. We can sort out problems in these areas.

Going out of comfort zone involves fear, uncertainty, the possibility of failure. Why would anyone want to?

TEXT. Peter does so because he has seen Jesus, who has given him courage and confidence to take a risk.

Is this true for us too? It’s easy to ‘hide’ in our comfort zones, inside the church walls, doing religious things with the like-minded. But Christ is out there on the water waiting for us to take a risk. This is what faith is!

TEXT. Taking a risk is not easy though, as Peter found out. One look away from him (who gave courage and confidence) and he started to sink. We might do the same. What helps us? What helped Peter?

He called for help from Jesus, help that was given. Cannot the same be true for us?

Even in our sinking and rising Jesus is at work!