

Call to Worship Sunday, August 13, 2017 by Lynn Tidgwell

Today's gospel finds the disciples out to sea fishing, an ordinary task that they had performed so many nights before. However, this night brings an unexpected surprise as the wind changes and the waves batter their boat. The great power of FEAR sets its claws into the disciples. Isn't this how life goes for you sometimes? The winds of change blow into your life without warning, unbidden, and the waves of fear batter you about. Have you ever heard the phrase: "I'm going under" to describe a feeling of being overwhelmed? Well, that was Peter today. He was literally "going under" with fear.

Try to identify a situation in your life, perhaps something that is changing, and is causing fear and anxiety to creep in. Be honest with yourself.

It seems that the scripture gives a simple clue as to how to effectively cope with fear.

Its all about what you choose to focus on. Peter was able to rise above the fear as long as he focused on Jesus's outstretched hand. But when his attention got caught up the circumstances, he started to drown in fear. What will you focus on in the situation you identified today? The great promise that God is with you in it, OR the scary details that seem so ominous. It is your choice.

Can you humble yourself , and say with Peter: "Lord, I am anxious and fearful, and I need your grace to save me from drowning in it."