



VIDEO DISCUSSION | WEEK 5

Sermon: February 8, 2026

BE BOLD FOR THE KINGDOM: GET OUT OF THE BOAT (MATTHEW 14:22-33)

Faithful Christ-followers live boldly, trusting that Jesus will carry us over the waves.

HOOK

MAIN POINT: *Faithful Christ-followers live boldly, trusting that Jesus will carry us over the waves.*

On January 24, 1848, James W. Marshall struck gold in Coloma, California. In the seven years that followed, some 300,000 people traveled to California, motivated by the promise of wealth. Willing to leave behind the comforts of home to pioneer the untamed west, a great many found that the risk outweighed the reward.

An estimated 50,000 perished on the California Trail due to the harsh conditions and barren land. Others traveled by sea and faced shipwreck and disease. Most made it to the Golden State, only to be greeted by deadly mining accidents and unregulated property rights. The economy boomed, but the promise of individual wealth remained empty for most.

As Christians, we are called to leave behind comfort and live boldly. Unlike the gold rush travelers, being bold in our faith is not a risk, because Christ is our guarantee and his promises always come to fruition. We don't have to worry about the dangers of leaving our comfort zone, because Christ is always with us and the reward (salvation) is certain and far greater than any earthly wealth.

BOOK

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Begin the video now, pause when prompted, then walk through the discussion points below

Talking Point 1: Followers of Jesus can have confidence because Christ is with us

Scripture: Matthew 8:23-27; 14:22-27

- Q: What caused the disciples to be fearful in each of these boat scenarios?
- Q: What would the proper response have been?
- Q: What fear prevents you from living boldly?
- Q: Who have you known that is a great example of confident Christian living? How do they represent Christ well?

Resume the video

Talking Point 2: Followers of Jesus are called to live beyond our comfort

Scripture: Matthew 14:28-30

Many of the daily decisions we make are with the intention of avoiding discomfort or inconvenience. When it comes to faith, though, *comfort and convenience lead to complacency.*

- Q: How does our culture promote comfort and convenience?
- Q: What fear prevents you from living boldly?
- Q: Who have you known that is a great example of confident Christian living? How do they represent Christ well?

Resume the video

Talking Point 3: Followers of Jesus have an Advocate when things begin to spiral
Scripture: Matthew 14:31-33

- Q: What can we learn from Jesus' rebuke of Peter's lack of faith?

Scripture: Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 2:1

- Q: What is an advocate? In what ways is Christ our advocate?
- Q: How have you seen Christ be an advocate in every circumstance in your life?
- Q: What is your response when you experience the grace of God in this way?



MAIN POINT: Faithful Christ-followers live boldly, trusting that Jesus will carry us over the waves.

As Midway embarks on Gaining Ground, it really is a leap of faith. Together as a church we need to be praying and contributing faithfully, expecting that God will move for the sake of his glory and his Kingdom.

Spend a few minutes discussing the practical applications of today's passage:

- Q: How does today's story from Matthew 14 connect to what we are doing with Gaining Ground?
- Q: What does it look like for you to step out in faith within your local church? (Think places to serve, time commitment, relationships, giving, etc.)
- Q: What does it look like for you to step out in faith outside of the local church? (How are you living publicly for Christ, evangelism, family discipleship, restoration of relationships, etc.)