

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This weekend's Gospel tells us about how Jesus walked upon the waters of the Sea of Galilee. Unlike the other Gospels, this story also tells of how Peter walked on water, too!

I love the impetuosity of Peter!

“Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” (Matthew 14:28)

He obviously took Jesus' words seriously when He said,

“Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.” (Matthew 14:27)

When Jesus commands him, **“Come,”** (vs. 29) Peter comes!

Rory made a comment to me this summer that Peter could not have just stepped out of the boat; because of the tumult of the sea, he would have had to jump out! What faith! With Jesus, all things are possible.

I spoke (and sang) last week about trusting God, remembering that He is our Abba, our Daddy, and that you and I are His precious, beloved daughters and sons. Do we really trust Him? This is one of the most important questions. He asks us to do some very difficult things. Scratch that: He commands us to do impossible things! Do you trust Him when He calls you to jump out of the boat? I can honestly say that I struggle often with His call to the impossible.

Recently, though, I have felt the call more and more strongly than before to step out of the boat and onto the sea. I have a sense that God is calling me, is calling US to do the impossible! Sometimes I'm afraid, though. What if it's not really what God is asking me to do? What if He lets me fall? What if, like Peter, I take my eyes off of Jesus and begin to sink?! I have to keep reminding myself that even if I fail, all I have to do is to call out to Jesus, “Lord, save me!” even, as Peter did, and He will catch me.

Why does God do such miracles of healing, calming the storms and the sea, walking on water? Why else than to show us that He REALLY IS LORD OF ALL CREATION?! And, I think, it is so that we can see that He really is trustworthy. He is in control, so I don't have to be. He is asking me to do something that is hard or even impossible, yet He has shown that He can do the impossible. Why else other than to show us that He is Abba, Daddy, that we can trust Him? So, when He shows us His moral law, which seems restrictive and overbearing, we can trust that it really is the best way for us to have freedom, holiness and even joy in this world and in the hereafter ... because He is our Daddy – my Daddy, your Daddy – and His will is our good. When He stretches us beyond our comfort zones (and doesn't that happen a lot!), we can trust that this stretch will not snap us, but, rather, help us to grow!

When God asks us to do the difficult or impossible, may we remember that He IS with us, that He will walk with us, that at His command, we will be able to WALK ON WATER! May we trust that He really has our joy in mind, and will take care of us every step of the way – after all, He *is* our Abba, our Daddy!