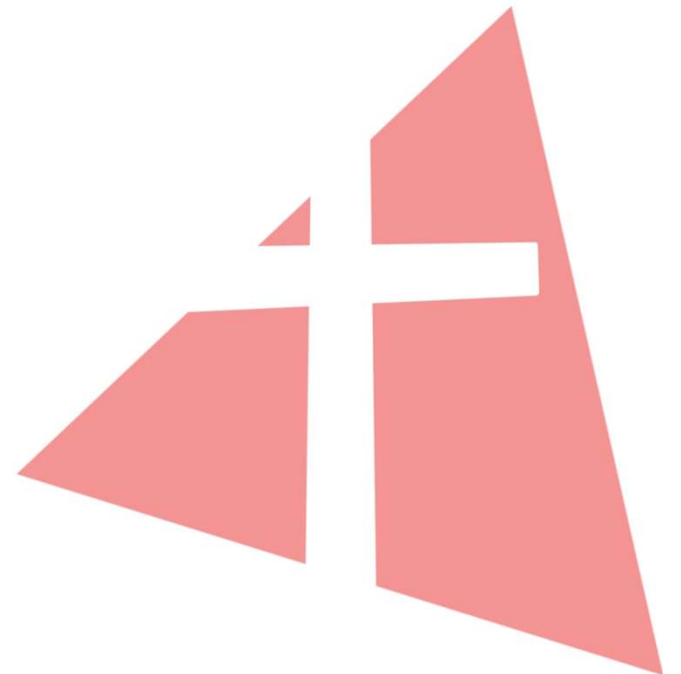


# **LIFE UNEXPECTED WITH GOD**

**August 27<sup>th</sup> 2017**



# 13 YEARS AGO

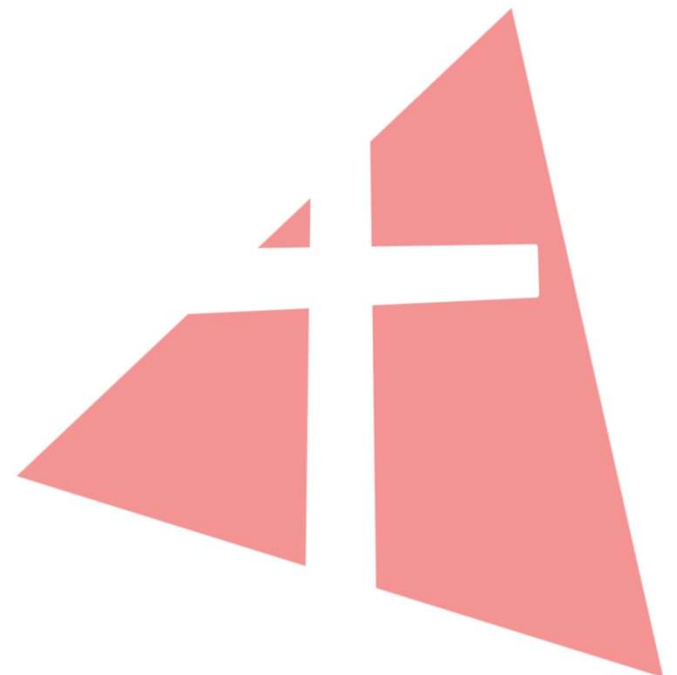
## ○ Aug. 27<sup>th</sup> 2004 I landed in Shanghai

- Not a Christian
- Looking for “something out there that I can’t seem to find in Germany”
- Wanted to stay for 4 – 6 months before starting my studies



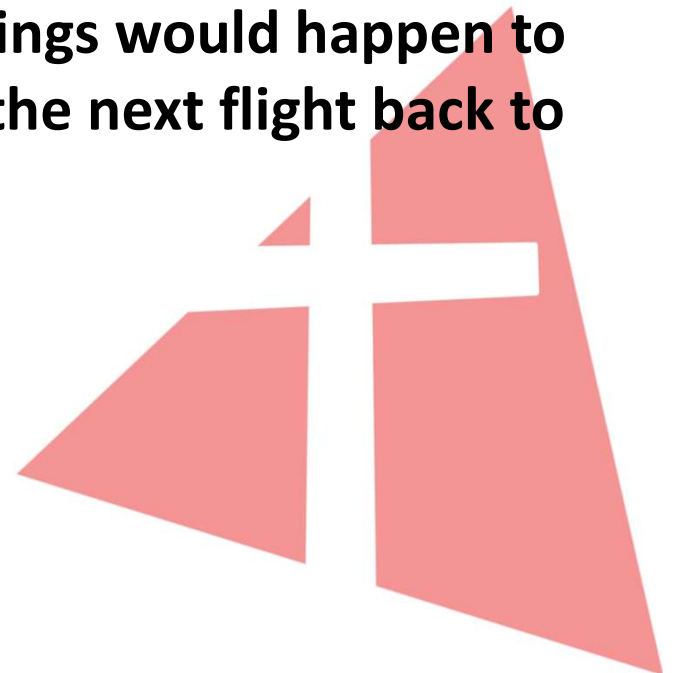
# MY SHANGHAI STAY

- **Became a Christian**
- **4 – 6 months turned into 12 years**
- **Got married to a Japanese**
  - 3 children
- **Working for the church for 5 years**



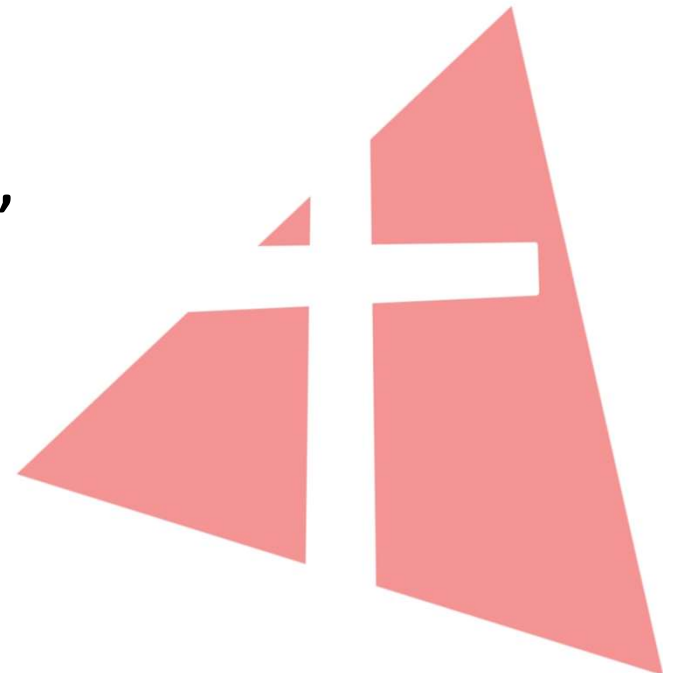
# MY SHANGHAI STAY

- **If anybody had told me ANY ONE of these things would happen to me 12 years ago, I would have sat right into the next flight back to Germany**



# 2 YEARS AGO

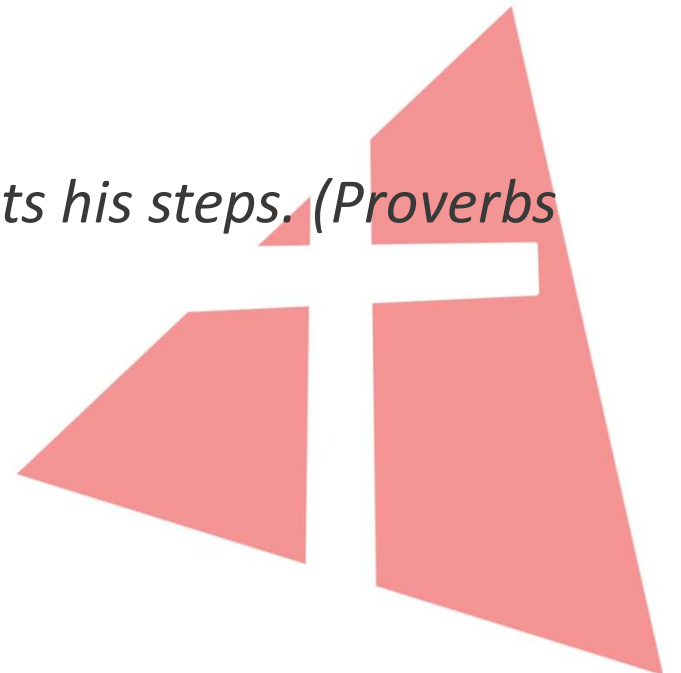
- **What's coming next?**
- **My response: "Anywhere. Just not Germany"**



# MY POINT BEING

- **Life with God doesn't always turn out the way we think it will in the beginning**

*A man's heart plans his way: but the LORD directs his steps. (Proverbs 16:9)*

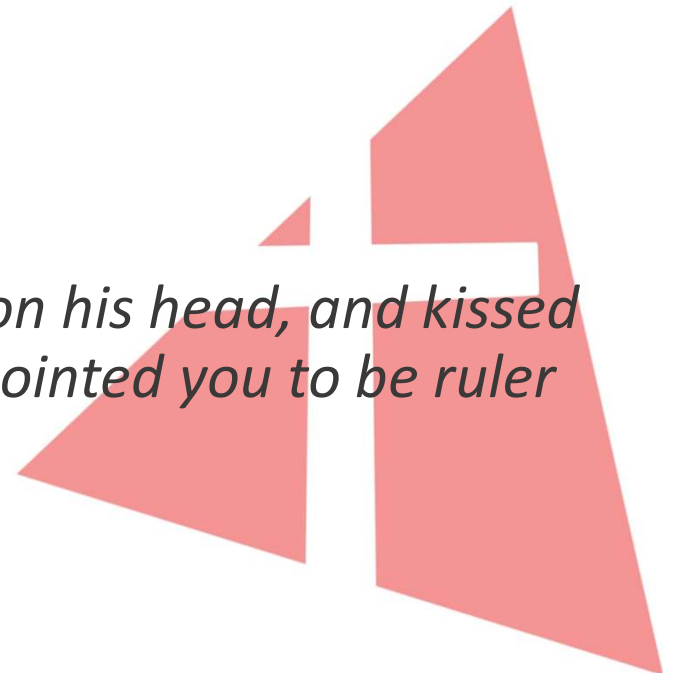


# SAUL'S DONKEY SEARCH

*And the donkeys of Kish Saul's father were lost. And Kish said to Saul his son, Take now one of the servants with you, and arise, go seek the donkeys. (1 Samuel 9:3)*

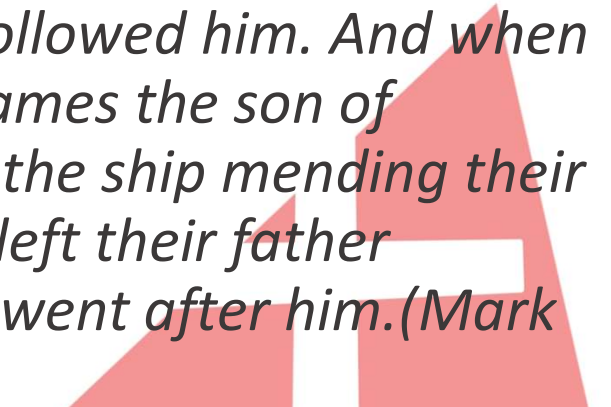
...

*Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the LORD has anointed you to be ruler over his inheritance? (1 Samuel 10:1)*



# JESUS CALLING HIS DISCIPLES

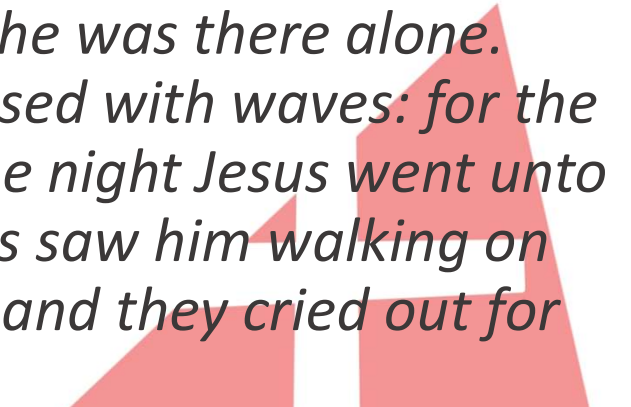
*Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And Jesus said unto them, Come after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. And immediately they left their nets, and followed him. And when he had gone a little farther from there, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets. And immediately he called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after him. (Mark 1:16-20)*





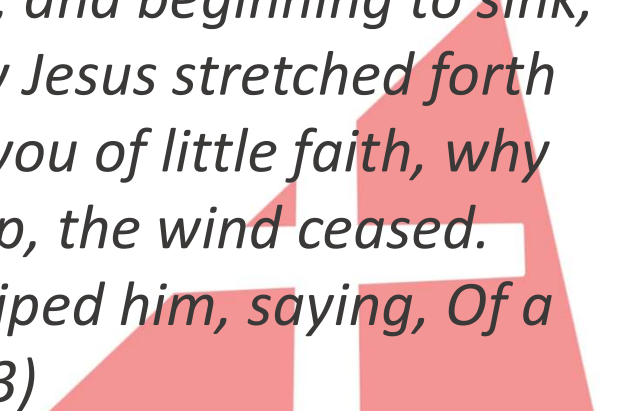
# PETER WALKING ON WATER

*And immediately Jesus made his disciples get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.*



# PETER WALKING ON WATER

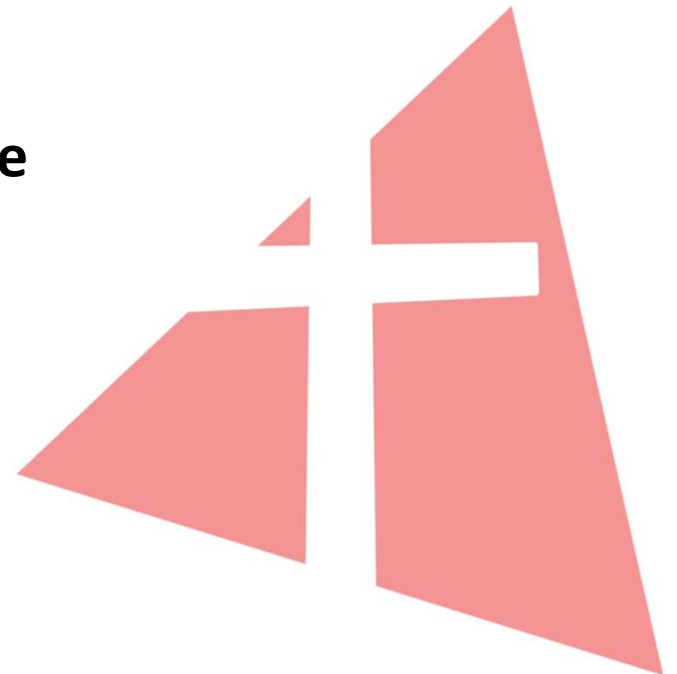
*But immediately Jesus spoke unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be you, bid me come unto you on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter came down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O you of little faith, why did you doubt? And when they came into the ship, the wind ceased. Then they that were in the ship came and worshiped him, saying, Of a truth you are the Son of God. (Matthew 14:22-33)*



# JESUS SENT THE DISCIPLES

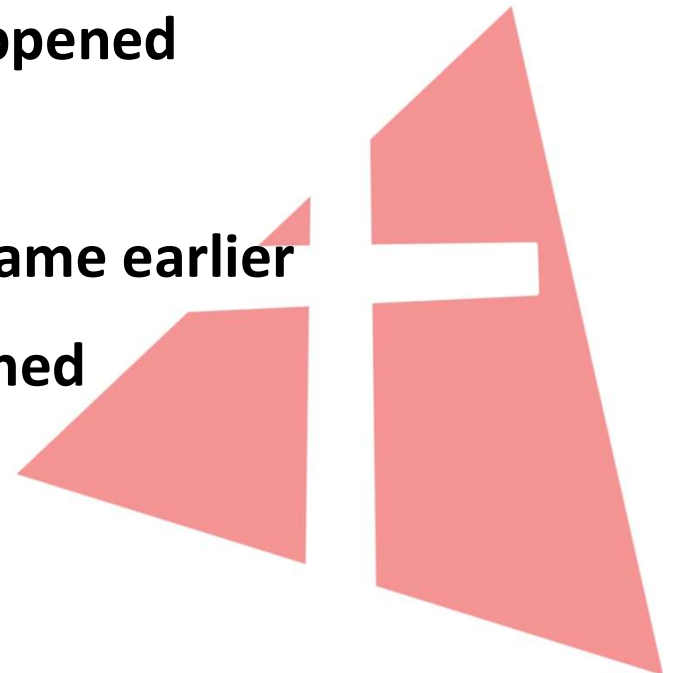
*And immediately Jesus made his disciples get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side*

- **Jesus told the disciples to go to the other side**
- **Jesus knew that the storm would come**
- **Jesus chose to not physically go with them**



# JESUS CAME ON TIME

- Jesus didn't go with them at once, to be there when the storm started
- But Jesus also didn't wait until a disaster happened
- The disciples might have wished that Jesus came earlier
- BUT: Jesus came before anything bad happened



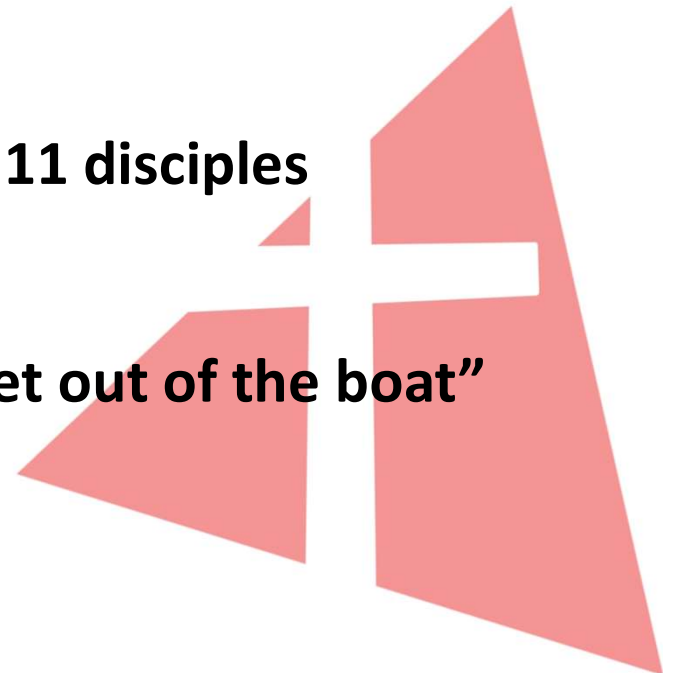
# THE DISCIPLES WERE SCARED

- Jesus came in a way the disciples didn't expect Him to appear
- They considered Him a threat, not a rescue
- Sometimes, the way Jesus solves a situation scares us in the moment



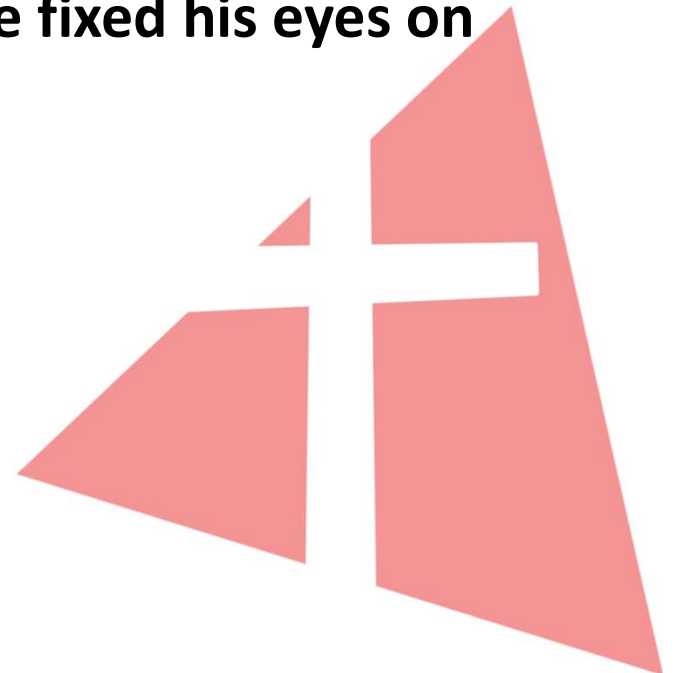
# PETER RISKED HIS LIFE

- We often think of Peter as “the guy who messed everything up”
- Here, Peter took an extraordinary step of Faith
- Peter had MUCH MORE Faith than the other 11 disciples
- “If you want to walk on water, you have to get out of the boat”



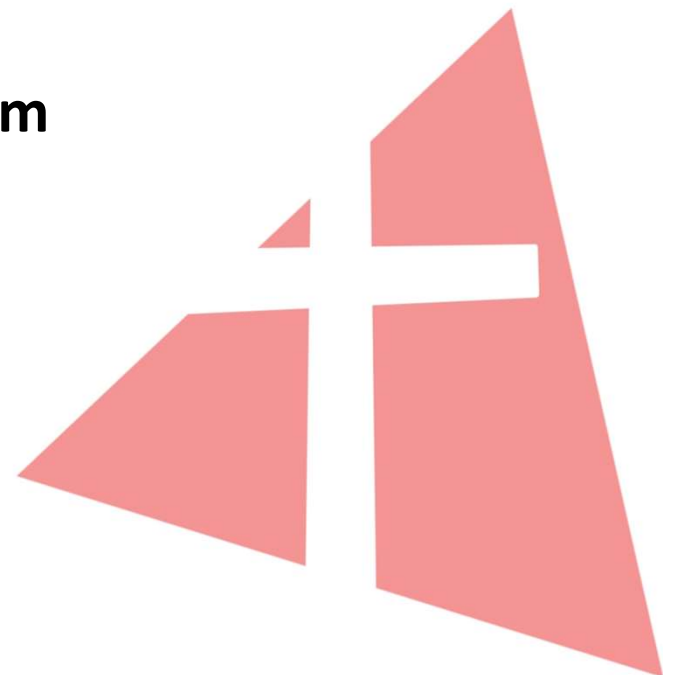
# PETER WALKED AND THEN FAILED

- Peter was able to walk on water as long as he fixed his eyes on Jesus
- Peter failed when he focused on the storm



# JESUS RESCUED FAILING PETER

- Jesus didn't let Peter drown
- Jesus corrected Peter, but didn't condemn him





# THE RESULT

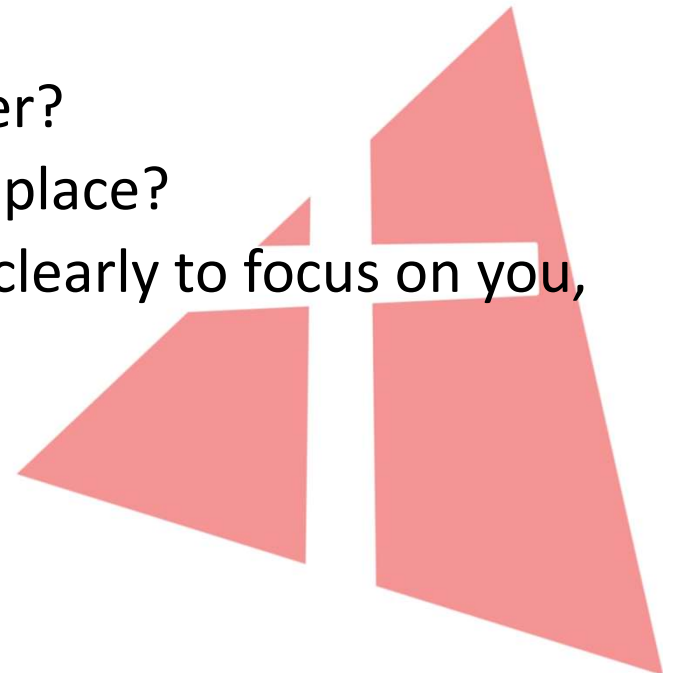
- **As a result, people came to Faith in Jesus**

*Then they that were in the ship came and worshiped him, saying, Of a truth you are the Son of God. (Matthew 14:33)*



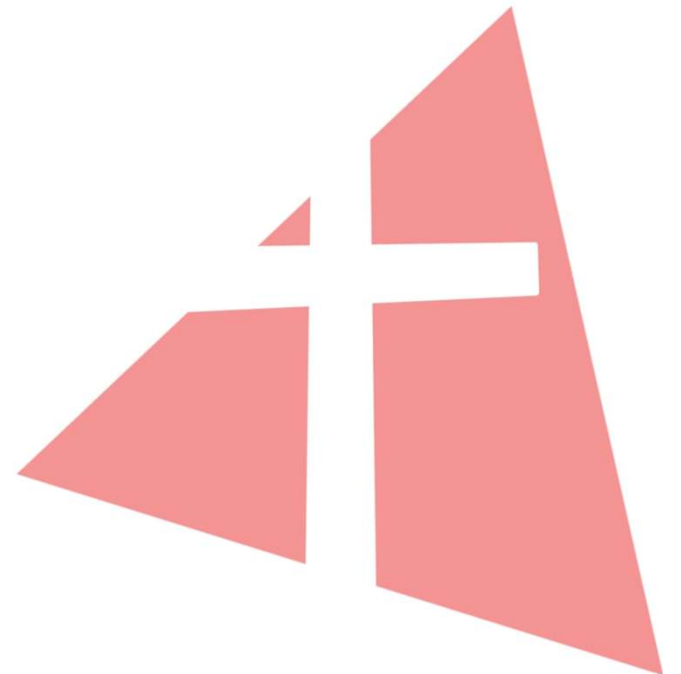
# HUMAN QUESTIONS

- **If I imagine having witnessed all that in the boat, I would have some serious questions**
  - Jesus, why did you send us across the river, if you knew the storm was coming?
  - Jesus, why didn't you stop the storm earlier?
  - Jesus, why weren't you with us in the first place?
  - Jesus, why didn't you instruct Peter more clearly to focus on you, and not to look at the storm?
  - ...



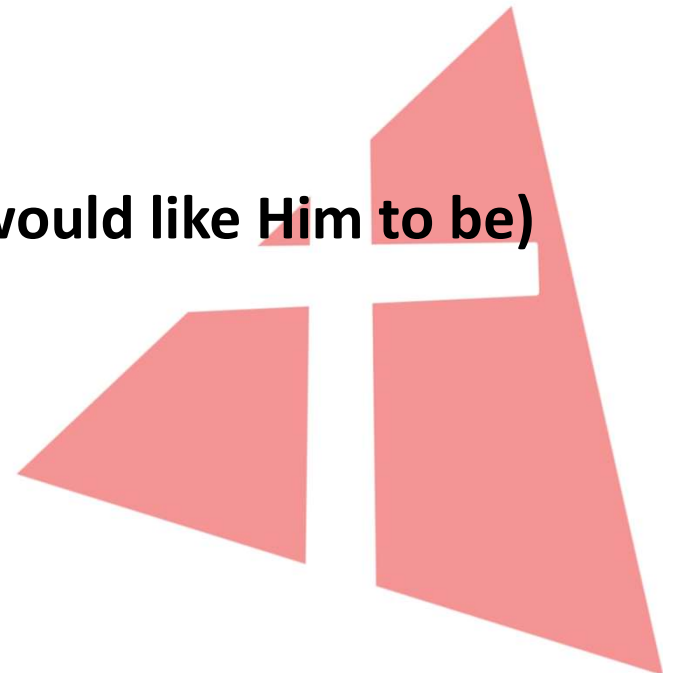
# BUT

- I can't explain all the "Why"s
- But I can say: God had a plan



# WHAT CAN WE LEARN?

- **Sometimes God sends us into the storm**
- **Jesus sees us, He doesn't leave us alone**
- **Jesus is never late (just often later than we would like Him to be)**



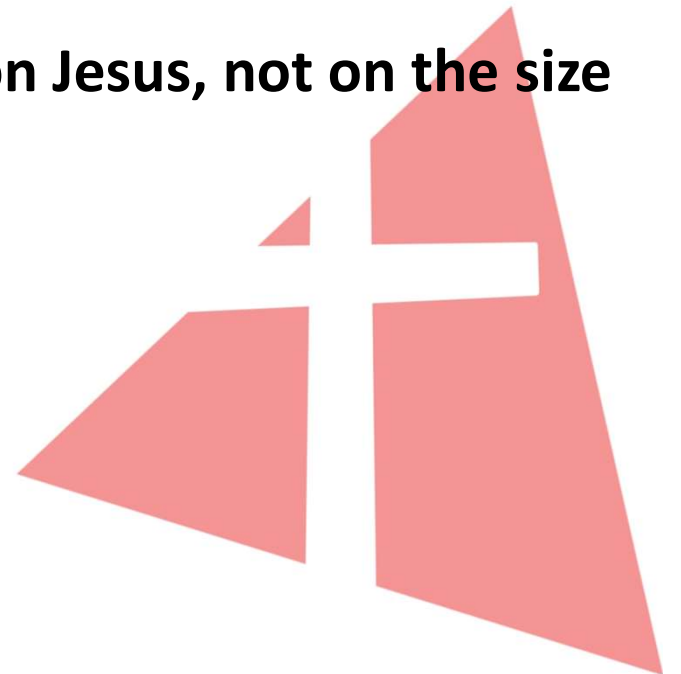
# WHAT CAN WE LEARN?

- **Jesus' solution can sometimes seem even more scary as the situation we are in**
- **If we want to see God's miracle, we sometimes have to let go of our earthly security**



# WHAT CAN WE LEARN?

- **To get through the storm, we have to focus on Jesus, not on the size of the storm**



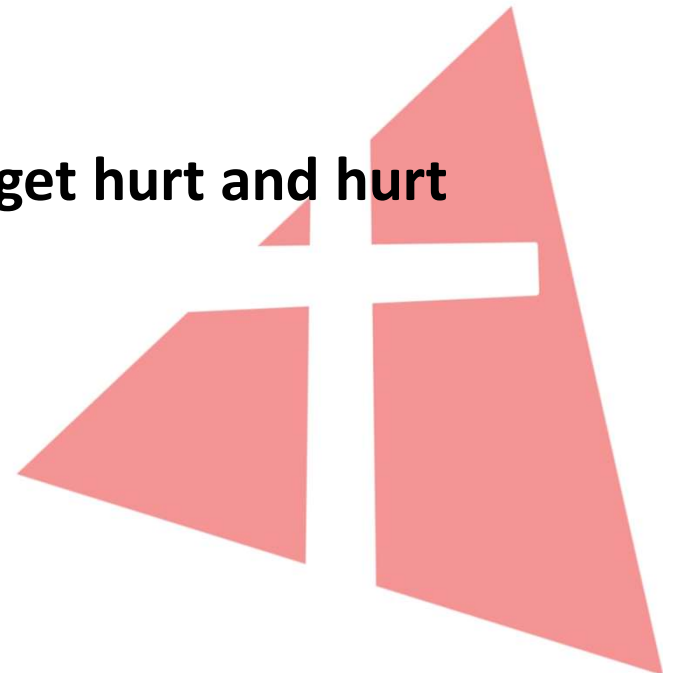
# WHAT CAN WE LEARN?

- **Jesus won't condemn us if we try and fail**
- **Jesus will bring something beautiful out of the situation even if we try and fail**



# SOMETIMES STORMS ARE OUR FAULT

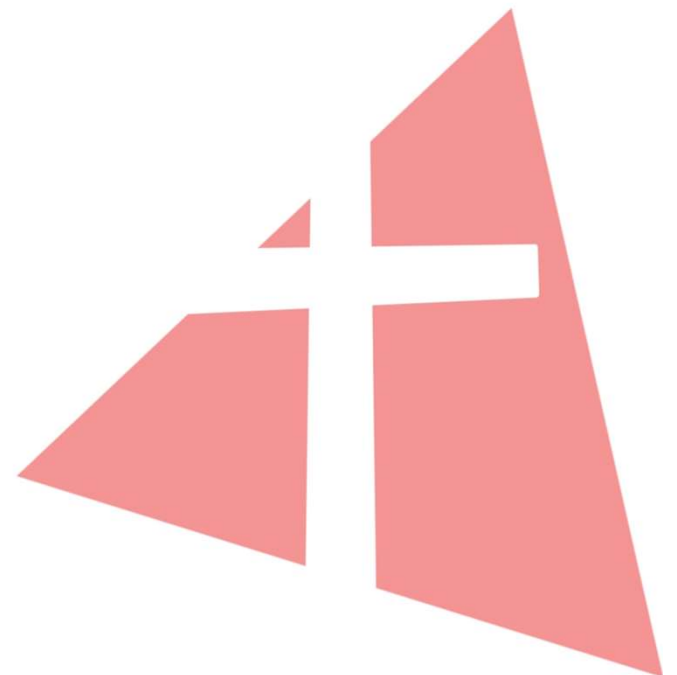
- If I don't work hard, I will get into a financial crisis
- If I don't take care of my body, I will get sick
- If I don't take care of my relationships, I will get hurt and hurt others,...





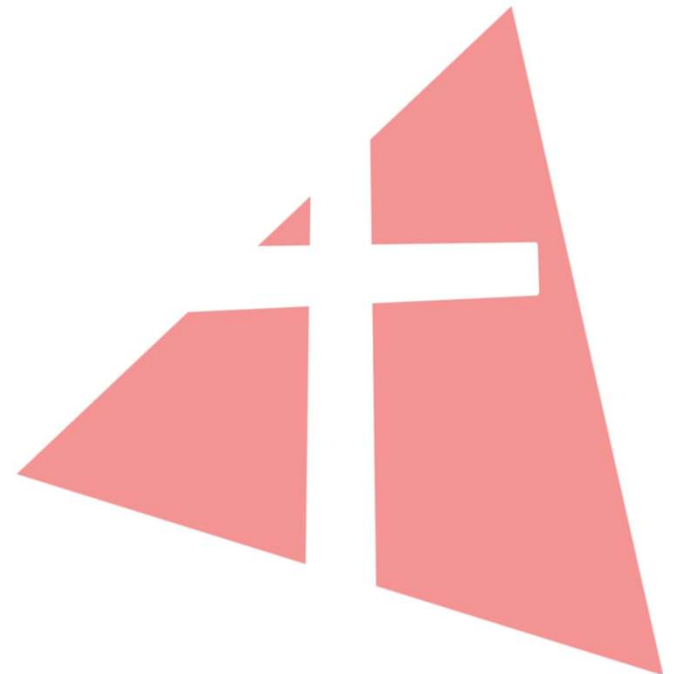
# WHAT ARE YOU GOING THROUGH?

- **Job/Financial crisis?**
- **Relationship/Family crisis?**
- **Failing in studies?**
- **Health crisis?**



# WHAT ARE YOU GOING THROUGH?

- **Crisis of meaning and purpose in life?**



# EMBRACE IT

- **If Jesus allows the storm in your life, then embrace it**
  - Fix your eyes on Jesus
  - If He has given you a “scary solution”, then dare to leave the boat
  - See His purpose on the other side



# CLOSING QUESTION

- **In what area of my life does God want me to step out of the boat today?**

