

Sunday 9th August 2026

Bible Readings

Romans 10:5–15 NRSV

[5] Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." [6] But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) [7] "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). [8] But what does it say? "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); [9] because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. [10] For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. [11] The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." [12] For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. [13] For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." [14] But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? [15] And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Matthew 14:22–33 NRSV

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. [23] And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, [24] but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. [25] And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. [26] But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. [27] But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." [28] Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." [29] He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. [30] But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" [31] Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" [32] When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. [33] And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Questions

1. What contrast does Paul make in Romans 10:5–8?

2. What does Romans 10:9 mean by confessing Jesus as Lord and believing that God raised him from the dead?
3. Why does Paul say, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13)?
4. Why are people needed to proclaim the gospel according to Romans 10:14–15?
5. Why does Jesus send the disciples across the lake while he goes away to pray?
6. What is significant about Jesus walking on the water?
7. What can we learn from Peter stepping out of the boat?
8. What is significant about Peter's prayer, "Lord, save me!"?
9. Why does Jesus ask Peter, "Why did you doubt?"
10. What is the main theological connection between Romans 10 and Matthew 14?

Extra:

- Q11. What do these passages teach about the relationship between faith, doubt and salvation?
- Q12. How does Matthew 14 reveal the divine identity of Jesus?
- Q13. What do these passages teach about the relationship between God's grace and Christian mission?

Reflection

Faith When the Waves Rise

Romans 10:5–15 and Matthew 14:22–33

Sometimes faith seems straightforward, and other times we feel as though we are trying to walk through a storm. Romans 10 and Matthew 14 remind us that Christian faith does not depend upon our ability to remain strong at all times. Our hope rests in Jesus Christ, who remains faithful even when we are frightened or uncertain.

In Romans 10, Paul tells us that God's salvation is near. We do not have to achieve something impossible to reach God. Instead, we are invited to believe, confess Jesus as Lord and call upon him: **"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."**

Peter illustrates this wonderfully in Matthew 14. The disciples are in a boat when a storm develops. Jesus comes towards them, walking across the water. At first they are terrified, but Jesus reassures them: **"Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."**

Peter then does something extraordinary. He steps out of the boat and begins walking towards Jesus. For a moment, his attention is fixed upon Christ. But then Peter notices

the wind and the waves. Fear begins to overcome faith, and he starts to sink. Peter's response is one of the shortest and perhaps most honest prayers in Scripture: **"Lord, save me!"**

Immediately, Jesus reaches out his hand. There is something deeply encouraging here. Jesus does not wait for Peter to produce a better prayer. He does not demand perfect faith before helping him. Peter calls, and Christ reaches out.

Our own Christian lives can sometimes feel similar. We may begin confidently but then encounter illness, grief, disappointment, uncertainty or fear. Suddenly the waves seem larger than our faith. The story reminds us that having faith does not mean that we will never be afraid or have doubts. Peter experienced both faith and fear. What mattered was where he turned when he began to sink.

Romans 10 also reminds us that faith is not something we keep entirely to ourselves. Paul asks how people can believe if they have never heard, and how they can hear unless someone tells them. **Having received God's love, we are called to share it.**

This does not necessarily mean preaching to crowds. We can make Christ known through simple conversations, acts of kindness, invitations, encouragement and the way we live our everyday lives. The two readings therefore give us a simple pattern:

- Hear the good news.
- Believe in Christ.
- Call upon him.
- Trust his saving hand.
- Share his love with others.

When the waves rise, our confidence does not come from pretending that we are strong enough. It comes from remembering who is standing before us. Peter's hand was not strong enough to save himself. **Christ's hand was.**

And that same Christ continues to say to us: **"Take heart... do not be afraid."**

Questions for Personal Reflection

1. What are the "wind and waves" in my life at the moment that are making it difficult for me to keep my attention on Christ?
2. When I feel myself struggling or "sinking," am I willing simply to pray Peter's prayer: "Lord, save me"?
3. Who might God be calling me to encourage or share his love with, so that they too can hear the good news and discover hope in Christ?