Pastor Ray Harms-Wiebe Matthew 14:13-21

September 10, 2023

Have you ever wanted to abandon something? Maybe its something trivial like your favourite sports team. When I'm frustrated with the Canucks or the Whitecaps or the Blue Jays, my wife asks me, "Why don't you cheer for the winning team?" She says I'll be happier if I just switch teams. Does she understand what it means to be a loyal fan?

Maybe you're considering abandoning something much more important than a sports team, like a job or a career. Or maybe you feel like abandoning something even more weighty like a relationship with a person, or a group of people, because you've been so disappointed, maybe betrayed. When was the last time you said, "I am so done with this! I am out of here!"

The theme of this weekend is: "A Family on Mission with Jesus: Everyone, Everyday, Everywhere." It all sounds so good, but sometimes we want to abandon what God has given us to do. Maybe you feel like abandoning God's mission because of things that have happened in recent weeks and months. What should we do when we feel like abandoning things?

Today's story can help us.

- 1. Don't run because you have pain
- 2. Don't run because you have little
- 3. Run to Jesus

Reflection:

- What has God placed in your hands? Give thanks for what God has entrusted to you (name things).
- 2. Are you willing to act with faith in God's provision? Pray a prayer of surrender.
- 3. What is Jesus calling you to do in His name this fall? Will you allow him to work a miracle through you?

WILLINGDON CHURCH ELDERS

Phil Balzer Alfred Gomez Mark Loewen Norm Schmidt Ed Thiessen John Best Ray Harms-Wiebe Dave Marshall Roman Bondartchouk Ruben Heyn Ken Redekopp Wayne Wiebe Danny Lee Rick Reimer Ken Dyck Tony Yao Jim Eisenhauer Paul Lee Vince Reimer

Please continue to pray for the elders.

If you wish to contact an elder, please email elders@willingdon.org.