

— “2I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord... 4Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

— 8... whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” (Philippians 4:2-8).

It can be all too easy to be negative about situations (and people) in the church. The more difficult task is to take every thought captive, to focus on what is right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy. This doesn't mean that we don't speak with one another about areas of disagreement, or challenge one another to other ways of thinking. However, we want to be careful to build up rather than tear down. We can build one another up as we pray for each other, as we speak words of encouragement, and as we listen to the ideas and hearts of others.

As Christians we are to be thinking critically about our faith, but not allowing ourselves to be critical of spirit.

The Bible

Matthew 14:22-36

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd.

After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.

When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It's a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I.

Favourite Bible Verses from our Congregation

submitted by Margaret Cosh

Don't be afraid.” “Lord, if it's you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

“Come,” he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out,

“Lord, save me!”

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret. And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to him and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed.

Donna Hamilton says: “I am impressed by the awesome events of this incident in the life of Jesus. It would have been great to see someone walking on water in the middle of a storm.”

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