

# Getting Ready for Sunday!



## **Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**The first reading and the Gospel give accounts of how people in both Old Testament times (before Jesus) and in New Testament times (from the time of Jesus) grew to know God in their lives.**



**As always, the first reading and Gospel carry the same theme.**

# **Listen!**

# 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13

The first reading is taken from the first book of Kings in the Old Testament.

It is about the prophet Elijah.

Elijah sought God in his every living moment.

Sometimes he looked too hard.

The he let God find him instead!

**Today's readings have a message for our lives today!**

At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, '*What are you doing here, Elijah?*' He said, '*Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.*'



**Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind;**



**Elijah tried to hear God in  
the power of the strong  
wind.....**

**and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake;**



**Elijah tried to hear God in  
the power of the great  
earthquake....**

**and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire;**

**Elijah looked for God  
in the power and  
brightness of the  
fire....**



**and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.**



**At last!  
He could listen in the quiet  
of his own heart...**



Then there came a voice to him that said, ***‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’***



As Elijah sat in silence, he heard God speak to him in a gentle breeze!

When was your heart quiet enough to hear God's voice and to feel God's gentle presence?

Elijah prayed with faith...and he heard God!

**Elijah was ready to hear the voice of God.**

**He looked for God's presence in all places and in all times!**

**Elijah knew that God would speak to his heard!**

**God spoke to him when he was quiet and ready.**

**The next passage is from St Matthew and gives an account of St Peter's experience of God in another strong wind.**

**Was Peter ready?**

**Does he show faith in Jesus when really put to the test?**

**God finds a way into our hearts if we are open to God.**

**God found a way to both Elijah and Peter in very different ages.**

Be still & know that ...

A person is sitting on a wooden bench on a grassy bank overlooking a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow across the sky and water. The foreground is filled with tall, golden-brown grasses.

I AM GOD.

# Matthew 14:22-33



***Jesus Walks on the Water***

**Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.**

**Jesus chose the  
company of His  
closest friends!**

**Jesus chooses our  
company today –  
the boat of choice  
today is in our  
hearts!**



**And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray.**



**When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.**

**And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear.**

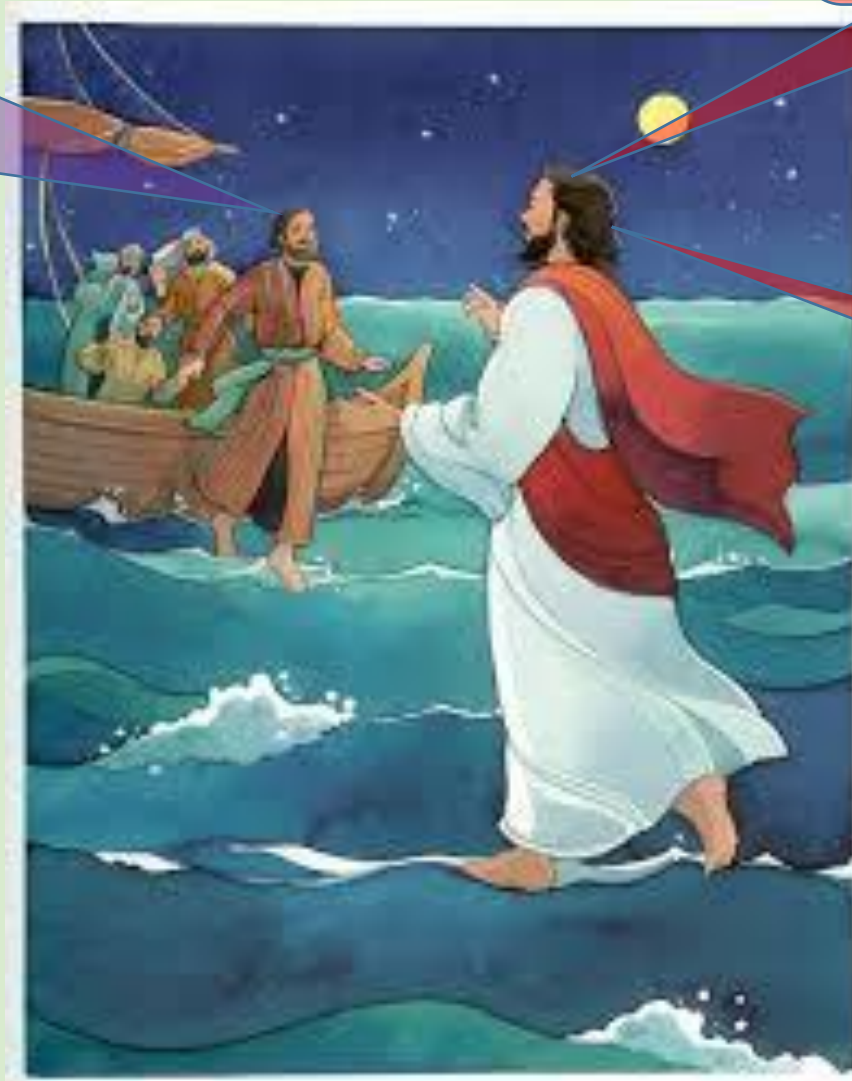


**When Jesus comes to the disciples in a different way and form, they don't even recognise Him!**

**Have there been times when you didn't realise that Jesus was present with you?**

**But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Peter answered him, 'He said, '**

*Lord, if it is you,  
command me to  
come to you on  
the water.*



*Take heart, it is I;  
do not be afraid.*

***Come.***



**So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out:**

***Lord, save me!***

**When did you last ask  
God to help you?**

**How much faith did you  
have then?**



**Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him:**

***You of little faith, why did you doubt?***

**How strong is your faith when you are really afraid?**

**Does your faith sink?**




**When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying:**

**Sit with this scene  
and enjoy Jesus'  
company.  
Shhhh!**

***Truly you are the Son of God.***





*"Be still, and  
know that I am  
God"*

**Psalm 46:10**

# Bible Search

Read **Matthew 14:22-33** in your family Bible-this is the Gospel reading at Mass this Sunday.



# Consider



**When can you take time to be quiet so that you can listen to God?**

# Praying to Jesus



**Pray for the grace to know that you are treasured in God's presence?**

**Ask God to help you to learn to be still.**

