

Bible passage

Matthew 14: 22 - 36

Song

Everything is possible, Philippa Hanna

<https://youtu.be/Lw2tRbTFGQQ>

Reflection

In some ways we have relegated the stories of Jesus to childhood and 'Sunday School' and for some of us their deeper significance lies unexplored. We must begin by recognising that the wonder of God's supernatural power is the bedrock of Jesus' actions.

In v. 23 Matthew records that Jesus went away alone to pray; the essential prelude for God's power to be revealed. Walking across the water in the dark and storm towards the boat he spooked the disciples who were terrified at the sight of him. Jesus spoke to reassure them and Peter reacted in his characteristically impulsive way before his faith shrank, and doubt and fear caused him to sink. Jesus saved him and the disciples were convinced that he truly was the Son of God. Their response is both reassuring and encouraging for us too.

Jesus worked with the grain of Peter's character to demonstrate the wonder of the supernatural power of God at work. As a carpenter he knew all about working with the grain of the wood. We see this too in so many gospel stories such as Zacchaeus, the woman at the well and the Centurion etc where Jesus works with the grain of each character to bring about the transformation or miracle that His Father has empowered him to perform.

What the gospel stories show us is that Jesus embodies acceptance, generosity and grace towards everyone, irrespectively. And so it can be for us. Jesus works with the grain of our character to bring the wonder of God's power into our lives. With God nothing is impossible. Luke 1:37.