

INTRO

We are unexpectedly invited in to invite in the unexpected. The unexpected are those who are overlooked and avoided, the hurting, the broken, the ones with special needs, those that look different or dangerous, the ones who fit all of the wrong categories in our imaginations.

- Did you have the opportunity this week to invite in the unexpected? How'd it go?

IDEA 1

Read Matthew 8:23-27

“Where is this boat headed? It was headed on a mission to bring the peace, presence and power of Jesus to new places! Church family, so are we...”

- What is your reaction to the idea that we are on mission as a church?
- In what ways do you see that we are engaging in that mission of bringing the peace, presence and power of Jesus to new places?
- Do you feel like you've stepped on to the Salem Alliance “boat” that's headed on mission? If not, what's keeping you from taking those next steps?
- What new places might God be inviting you on mission?

This boat is headed on a strategic mission and the enemy acts early to try to thwart that mission.

- What are some of the ways that the enemy tries to thwart the mission?
- Where have you seen this in your own life?
- How can we best prepare ourselves for these moments?

IDEA 2

“Being anxious when on mission is a pretty normal feeling ...Because discipleship and mission with Jesus costs us control and comfort.”

- **What do you think your response would have been if you were one of the disciples in the boat with Jesus?** Consider what your response would have been before and after Jesus calms the storm as well as when you arrive to .
- **Have you ever felt “anxious” after God invited you to follow him on mission? How did you respond to that anxiety?**
- **Where do you sense the desire for comfort and control in your life at the moment?**
- **What has helped you release control and comfort in your discipleship journey?**

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Ask your Life Group - where do they feel anxious at the moment?

Bring those anxieties to God in prayer.

You may like to end your time in prayer by praying these words together:

King Jesus,

I let go of my desire for power and control.

I let go of my desire for affection, esteem, approval, and pleasure.

I let go of my desire for survival and security.

I let go of my desire to change any situation, condition, person or myself.

I open to the love and presence of God and God's action within.

Amen.

NEXT STEPS

As you reflect on the sermon and your discussion today, what do you sense God's invitation to you is? What next step is He encouraging you to take this week?