

The Weekly Message from Darren Brandon

May 17, 2023

"Listen Closely"



Bertha Wynn was the oldest member of the Berea church. I always left our visits better than when I had arrived. One day we talked about listening, and she quoted a nursery rhyme I had never heard.

A wise old owl lived in an oak,
The more he saw, the less he spoke
The less he spoke, the more he heard,
Why can't we be like that wise old bird?

Not only is listening important but who we choose to listen to can encourage or bring us down. In the middle of a storm, Jesus came to the disciples and called Peter out of the boat. Peter stepped out. Fear took hold when he looked around at the wind and waves, and Peter began to sink. Peter had responded to the voice of Jesus, but he started listening to other voices.

Voices and fear will give you a free pass if you are not doing anything. But when you step out to do something that really matters they will get louder and louder. They will say things like, "Who are you to do that?" "You are wasting time." "Everyone else has a plan." "It's too late."

These voices are not our friends. Peter faltered, but Jesus reached out and saved him. When you come to the moment of stepping out, Jesus is there. Best of all, Jesus got in the boat with Peter and the disciples. They all went back to the work of rowing. Back to the oars and struggling against the wind. And that's the thing to remember - we're in this with Christ.

Blessings,

Note: After today, I'll be taking some time off from the weekly message to prepare for Annual Conference and then vacation.