

# 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

WHAT IF PETER had listened the first time? “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid,” Jesus told him when Peter became fearful at seeing Christ walk on water. Why did Peter have to ask for proof? And why such dramatic proof?

How different might the story have been if Peter had calmed down, sat back and waited for Jesus to reach the boat. On the surface, not much would have changed. The wind would have ceased, and the disciples would still have that revelation of the reality of Jesus.

Most paintings of this scene show a stern, commanding Jesus on the water. However, by now, Jesus must have known what to expect from Peter. Per-

haps a knowing, loving grin might be more appropriate for these portraits. That’s how I like to imagine Christ when I finally realize the truth of a situation. Like Peter, I take a lot of convincing, especially when God is involved. We long for instant solutions and dramatic signs. We are all Peter.

If Peter had thought a moment, he might have taken a lesson from Elijah, who waited for the silence. We’re not good at silence. And we’re not good at listening, especially listening to God. Perhaps we all need to pray often the first verse of today’s Psalm, “Let me hear what God the Lord will speak.”

*Margaret Bick*

**People and Prayers to Remember this Week**

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***Readings of the Day***

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1 Kings 19.9, 11-13

Romans 9.1-5

Psalm 85

Matthew 14.22-33

**Responding to the Word**

**Paul would do anything to help others come to Christ. What can I do today to draw someone closer to Christ?**

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