



REDWOOD

COVENANT CHURCH

06.04.10

65 degree water on a cloudy Memorial Day early morning is not my idea of a relaxing holiday.

“Yooooowwwwww” echoed across the lake as the cold water rushed over me. Remember your last ice cream headache? Imagine it all over your body. It was at that moment I began to wonder why I accepted the gracious offer from Kirk Seidler to join him, his two sons Kacey & Kent and two of our church student staff, Mike Nunan & Mason Williams for a Boys Road Trip to Lake Sonoma.

Ah, but hearing the roar of the boat engine, feeling the pull of the powerful boat and cruising across the water’s surface on a wakeboard erased all pain and fear capturing my attention only moments prior. The experience validates the risk.

I’m one month into my Redwood Covenant Church adventure. If you are new to the church, you are not alone. I’m still learning what to do next...and I’m supposed to be running the place as an Interim Lead Pastor. (How’s that for boosting your confidence in our church leadership?) But after 32 years of doing the business of the master Carpenter and my Lord, I know it is an adventure of faith. You have to leave the warmth of the snuggly covers, suit up, show up...and jump in. The water may be colder than I like, the lake might be rougher than I prefer, the muscles can be (OK, will be) more sore when I’m done, but the faith act is to leap into the water of life, grab hold of the rope of righteousness, look to the Lord of power and yell, “Hit it!” True, I fell every time I tried to do more than just stay safely behind the boat, but that’s part of the sport. Anybody can remain where it is easy. Outside the wake is where the adventure awaits.

One of my favorite stories in the Bible, and the text I have preached literally over 40 times around the nation since my first “talk” as a student leader before my youth group 34 years ago, is the story of Peter walking on the water to Jesus (Matthew 14:22-33). I am so inspired and challenged by Peter’s key statement, “Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you on the water.” In one word Jesus changed the course of Peter’s life, the perspective of His apostles and the destiny of the Church of Jesus Christ - “Come.”

Today hear the words of our Lord, “Come.” I don’t know what that means to you but I can state confidently He has revealed a place in your life where He is calling you out of the boat, into the water to live a life beyond what you asked for or imagined. Yes, it will be cold, hard, tiring, discouraging maybe even embarrassing. But when you finish, you can say, “I lived to tell the story” because your life will reflect a history of His story in you.

If you’re wondering what a step of faith response to “Come” might look like, allow me to make a few suggestions as the RCC boat driver:

Come Celebrate – Join us regularly in worship on Sundays. I’ve really enjoyed my few Sundays with the church. I can’t wait to come back. Bring someone with you including kids & teenagers for our great children’s & youth ministries. It’s more fun to flop in the water with a crowd cheering and laughing.

Come Together – Join a small group this summer for a more casual gathering and then re-up for our Fall Small Group launch to connect closely with other people striving to live life together for Jesus.

Come Serve – If you haven't found a spot on the crew where you can use your gifts and passion to be a part of a work of God bigger than your own day-to-day life, talk to one of our staff. Faith really becomes a verb not just a noun when you serve our Lord.

Come Belong – This Sunday, June 6, 11:11 AM -2:00 PM (lunch & childcare provided) we are offering our Membership class. Discover who we are, where we came from, where we are headed and how you can say Yes to belonging not just attending our church. If you didn't do the pre-sign up just come anyway!

Come Believe – If you are ready to move from an observer to a believer in Jesus as your Lord and Savior, take the greatest life step today (see Romans 10:9 in the Bible) or talk to me or one of our staff on Sunday. Hear the life changing words of Jesus to his disciples in Matthew 14:27, "Take courage. It is I. Don't be afraid"

I am still sore from the Memorial Day outing. More importantly, I now have 5 new guys in my life who I didn't know very well Sunday night but now consider brothers in the adventure...as long as they don't put any pictures of my wakeboard crashes on Facebook.

See you Sunday,

Pastor Doug

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