

Reaching Out

Job 38:4-18 | Romans 10:5-17 | Matthew 14:22-33

The limits of _____

Demanding _____

Is that _____?

Ready to _____ out

Ready to _____ out

Read. Reflect. Respond. Remember.

It fascinates me that the Gospel reading today is often used as a sort of general encouragement for people to get out their established patterns and go and try new things as a demonstration of their faith in God. I mean, I can see how you can get there and there is definitely a need in Christianity to challenge our, quite frankly, safe and secure assumptions about being a follower of Jesus. I just don't think this text is that. If anything it really strikes me a testament to how little we know, even when we're trying to do something new (or especially when we're trying to do something new). It isn't exactly the most encouraging thing to say get out of the boat, because it is terrifying out there. I really think that it is at its best a simple reminder how much Jesus is hanging on to us, or the whole shootin' match would be over. Read Proverbs 3:5.

Reflect:

What is your relationship with doubt? How do you express not knowing? How does fear and uncertainty work on you? As you explore these questions – ask the opposite as well – What is your relationship with trust? How do you express knowing? How does assurance and confidence work on you? Who taught you these things?

Respond:

The challenge that God gives to Job is that Job's perspective is too small. How is that true of us?

Remember: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." Proverbs 3:5