



**“Then Peter got down out of the boat”
(Matthew 14:29)**

As the new year begins, most everyone is looking forward to some positive and productive things occurring in their lives. They are anticipating doing some “smooth sailing.” Of course, sailing smoothly on faithful and obedient waters requires a willingness to get out of the boat of comfort to follow the Lord! What all is involved in “getting out of the boat”?

1) Identifying Your Boat

2) Counting the Cost

3) Expanding Your Spiritual Comfort Zone

As we begin this Year of Discipleship at Rolling Hills, are you ready to “get out of the boat” to follow the Lord more faithfully than ever before? Will you come today and either commit your life to Him for the first time or re-commit to living your life as an obedient disciple of Christ?

For Further Consideration this Week:

Monday: Meditate on Matthew 4:21-22. Consider what James and John were willing to give up to follow Jesus. Did you notice their willingness to get out of the boat *immediately*? What are some of the reasons for your reluctance to follow Christ more faithfully and immediately? Ask God to help you deal with those reasons as you begin the new year.

Tuesday: Read Genesis 8:15-20. These verses give us the account of Noah and his family getting out of a very large boat! Notice what Noah did as soon as he came out of the ark. What does that tell you about the spiritual act of “getting out of the boat” to follow Jesus? Spend some time in personal worship of the Lord today!

Wednesday: Read Exodus 2:1-10. This passage tells the story of baby Moses being rescued from the water by Pharaoh’s daughter. She got him out of the “little boat” in which his mother had placed him for protection. Take some time today to thank God for His protection and direction in your life.

Thursday: Read Jonah 1:1-6. Notice how Jonah reacted in this passage. Instead of preparing to get *out* of the boat to follow God’s call, he went lower *into* the boat to find comfort. See how the worldly sailors ridiculed him? What a poor testimony we give to the world when we disobey God by staying in our own boat of comfort! Confess any times that you have retreated toward comfort instead of obeying God.

Friday: Read Matthew 8:18-23. In this passage, Jesus got *into* the boat, and his disciples followed him. Though they end up *in* the boat this time, what is the principle we should learn from the action of the disciples here? Remember, where God guides, He provides!

Saturday: Meditate on John 8:31-32. What is the evidence of genuine discipleship? What is the result? Take some time to ask God for the ability to discern His will and the strength to carry it out—as a real disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ!