

## Youth Sunday Sermon

Jackson Matejka

Good Morning,

Some of you may know me. My name is Jackson Matejka I'm a senior at Milton high school and I've been going to church here ever since I can remember. When R.G first asked me to give this sermon I struggled to think of what to talk about. And amid all this stress about having to come up here to speak to all of you, my topic started to make itself clear. I had doubts in my ability to come up here. I can't say I've really done anything like this. I've participated in my fair share of Christmas pageants, but that's a lot different than something like this. I was having a tough time expressing my ideas on to paper. It's easy to think about our faith, but putting it into words can be difficult sometimes . While brainstorming topics I got to reflect on the time I've spent here. When I was really young sitting with the other kids after Sunday school with Burget in a big circle and singing songs. And There's one song in particular that I specifically remember called "he's got the whole world in his hands". A lot of you probably know it, but for those of you who don't, the message of the song is pretty much just like the name implies. It talks about how God is metaphorically holding each and everyone of us. And while revisiting this song it really struck a chord with me. It's kind of incredible to think how god can support all of us at once. By the side of all seven point nine billion people on this earth. No matter age, race, gender, or any other measure of diversity, he's got you. So as silly as it might sound this nursery song helped me through the process of writing this sermon. Despite all my doubts and uncertainties about my ability to give this sermon, knowing that God is watching over me acted as a source of comfort. It let me know that everything would be alright. He wouldn't treat me any differently no matter how well I do, I'd always be able to know he's helping me along the way. Even if I mess up, I'll always be able to turn to him.

How does this sentiment connects to people's lives though. Maybe they just started working a new job and they aren't quite settled in or are in the process of moving. It could even be something as silly as worrying about your outfit to go hangout with friends. Whatever it is making decisions and taking action to deal with your problems is much easier when you know that you have someone in your corner. It takes away the pressure of feeling like you're dealing with it on your own. And all this isn't to say that you always need to have the quick fix for all your issues. Maybe your just trusting that everything will work out. You don't always need to know what lies ahead for you. Whatever it is though it's gonna be a whole lot easier with god by your side. A prime example of this is from Mathew. In this story Jesus tells the disciples to make the trip across the sea of Galilee. And while doing so a storm arose "the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it." Now I'd like for all of you to put yourself in the disciples shoes. Your on a boat probably not much bigger than the pues your all sitting on being repeatedly hit by waves and the wind. I think I speak for most of us when I say I'd be a little on edge. And even more so, "When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the lake, ... "It's a ghost," they said...But Jesus immediately said to them:

“Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid”. Even still understandably alarmed by their given situation, the disciple Peter looked for reassurance from the presence claiming to Jesus. Asking Jesus to tell him to walk on water. Which seems impossible right. I mean it breaks the rules of everything we’ve been taught. Most people wouldn’t try to walk on water unless they wanted to take an impromptu bath. It’s an enormous leap of faith risking falling into the raging water, but “Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord save me!” and “Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”. Peter was so close to doing something incredible, but he was overwhelmed by the unknown. Understandably allowing his situation to get the better of him because he didn’t trust in god. We can all probably relate to Peter being scared of something new. I personally think about how my highschool career is coming to an end next week and how college is right around the corner. About how im gonna miss my friends and all of you in here that I’ve grown to know and appreciate. I feel comfortable with the change though, because i know that I have god by my side. I understand the only way I’ll be able to grow in my faith and as an individual is to embrace the uncertainty that lies ahead. Because rejecting unfamiliar situations is only preventing your own development. Through these situations we can learn to be better christians, and people. We should look at these situations and events in our lives as opportunities to strengthen our character and relationship with god as he’s with us every step of the way. So if theres one thing I’d like to challenge all of you to do, it would be to try new things. Don’t be scared of what might seem foreign to you in the moment. Embrace the uncertainty and from it grow with god.