



Main Idea: It is time for graduates to step out of their boats of comfort that they have been living in. The future is uncertain, but one thing is for sure...keep your eyes on Jesus always.

[Teacher Note: This message is very generic, so it should be edited to add stories that include some of your seniors. This message was also written for a very secular, unchurched audience. It is very easy to go deeper into this subject if your audience is at that point.]

Prep: Load the **Graduation Fail Video** before the service.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gyypl3Tk468>

Start at 0:00 and end at 1:07. If it goes beyond that time, you get ads on the screen for cosmopolitan...may the force be with your computer person.]

It is great to see the families and friends with us today, but it is even greater to see you graduates! After all, this day is all about you guys.

So, let me start off by asking you, graduates, who is nervous about graduating? Okay, maybe a few of you, but can I ask you what makes you nervous about it? [Call on a few that raise their hands after each of these questions.]

Okay, so who is just indifferent to graduating? You are just going with the flow. Okay, now who is ready to be done? Yeah, that is what I thought. Awesome. Yeah, I get it, you have been in school for on average 18,000 hours since you were in kindergarten. That is a long time. So, it is way past time to be done! It is an exciting time! You guys have been looking forward to this day probably since you were young. And you have some big decisions to make if you haven't already done so, like, where are you going to go to college? Maybe you won't go to college? What degree will you pursue? Maybe you want to start a business? How will you pay for rent? What car will you drive? Will you meet new friends? How are you going to eat, mom and dad aren't around to cook for you anymore?

There are all these questions for you to answer. And to be honest, I don't have the answer for them. Your parents don't have the answers for them. Most of it comes from experiencing it and learning from those experiences.

But let's back up for just a second. Like back way up. I think that before we even get to college, we need to start with the baby steps. I'm thinking the baby step of even walking across the stage during your graduation ceremony. Have you ever thought about how daunting that may be?! Literally everyone will be staring at you as you take step after step then you have to grab the diploma and keep walking. You guys think I'm joking but take a look at this video that I have for you.

[Show graduation fail video, link here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gyypl3Tk468>]

It's harder than it looks, isn't it?! No, I am just joking, I'm sure you will all do great, well most of you. But this is a good representation of what you guys are going through, right? Everyone will be looking at you, all the pressure will be on you to walk across that stage, and then you'll make some life changing decisions, and move on. Well, believe it or not there is actually a story in the Bible that is really similar to that video that we just watched.

If you have a Bible with you, turn to Matthew 14, and we will get there shortly. I know you are going to recognize this story but let me give you a little context first. Jesus was walking around the countryside with His disciples. Crowds and crowds of people were following Him everywhere listening to what He said, watched Him perform miracles, and some even were healed by Him! It was a pretty awesome time, and right before the story we are going to read, He and the disciples fed 5,000 people with just a few loaves of bread and some fish. Remember that story? Okay, so Jesus and the disciples had just finished feeding this massive crowd of people and let's look at what happened next. **Matthew 14:22** is where we are going to start.

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. (Matthew 14:22-24 ESV)

Pause there for a second. Just to review what was happening, notice that Jesus was not with the disciples. He sent them out on their own after they had spent a lot of time and a lot of effort feeding and ministering to the

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