



# Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

March 12, 2023

*“How Do We Understand and Relate to God?”*

Nicodemus: Tell me, what do you see in the mirror?

Zohara: This is a cheap glass. I can barely make out anything at all.

Nicodemus: Sometimes I wonder if what we can know about Adonai and the law is just as blurred. What if we're not seeing the whole picture. What if it's more beautiful and more strange than we can ever imagine.

Zohara: That is the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard.

## **How Do We Understand and Relate to God?**

The two people in this short dialog are Nicodemus, a prominent Pharisee, and Zohara, his wife, and it takes place in season 1, episode 1 of the TV series The Chosen, a series about the life and ministry of Jesus and those who encountered him.

It does seem ridiculous that a learned Pharisee would express doubts about how he understands God. Yet, which one of us can say we have never had doubts about God, Jesus, our faith!

Lent is an opportunity to reflect on our understanding of God...and where we really don't understand God... and not be afraid to voice those doubts. To Christians, doubt is not considered a sin, but an inevitable part of faith. Doubt can lead to a stronger faith and a deeper understanding of God.

James 1:5 tells us: "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

Let us then pay attention to our doubts and pursue a deeper understanding of God through prayer, scripture, and fellowship in our faith communities. By seeking to know God more fully, we can have a deeper relationship with Him and find greater fulfillment in our lives. Amen! May it be so!

### **Prayer Box**

**Pray for** recovery for Gloria, Lucy; Joyce waiting for medical care; Bill's recovery; Mark facing a tough medical diagnosis; those people we care about who are struggling with personal relationships. Lord, hear or prayer!

**Gospel Reading for the week of March 12: Matthew 14:22-33,**

**“Jesus Walks on Water”**

**The Message of This Reading:**

We hear the impact of this famous story in our everyday conversations. For instance, when given a difficult assignment at work, our response might be, “How on earth do you expect me to do this? I can't walk on water!”

This story appears in a very active time in Matthew's Gospel. Jesus has been teaching parables and has just learned that his cousin John has been executed by Herod. Then he preaches and feeds the five thousand. Then he and his disciples move on.

Did Jesus even have time to catch his breath? Did Jesus have time to mourn for his cousin? No, not that we can tell from Matthew's Gospel.

We also wonder if the disciples had time for all this divine teaching to sink in. Did they have time to understand the message behind the stories and the miracles Jesus performed? No, not that we can tell from Matthew's Gospel up to this point.

Dramatically, as the disciples see Jesus crossing the water on foot to their boat, Jesus invites Peter to join him. Peter walks a few steps, then he becomes afraid and sinks. “You of little faith,” Jesus said. “Why did you doubt?”

Lent is a time for us to examine our doubts ... and replace them with hope and faith. It takes time, and in that we are no different from the disciples!