

## Jesus Walks on the Water

Matthew 14:23-36; Mark 6:47-56; John 6:15-27

<sup>JN 6:15</sup> Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone. <sup>MT 14:22</sup> Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. <sup>16</sup> His disciples went down to the sea, <sup>17</sup> got into the boat, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was already dark, and Jesus had not come to them. <sup>MK 6:47</sup> and He *was* alone on the land. <sup>24</sup> But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. <sup>48</sup> Then He saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them.

<sup>25</sup> Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea (<sup>MK 6:48</sup> and would have passed them by). <sup>26</sup> And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. <sup>27</sup> But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

<sup>28</sup> And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."<sup>29</sup> So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw that the wind *was* boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"<sup>31</sup> And immediately Jesus stretched out *His* hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"<sup>32</sup> And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."<sup>MK 6:33</sup> And they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marveled. <sup>52</sup> For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened.

<sup>34</sup> When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret. <sup>35</sup> And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent out into all that surrounding region, brought to Him all who were sick, <sup>36</sup> and begged Him that they might only touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched *it* were made perfectly well.

### Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus refused or avoided the plan of the people to take Him by force to crown king? What do you see as the reason why they were planning to make Him king by force?
2. Why did Jesus immediately after the feeding of the 5000 tell the twelve apostles to get into the boat and go before Him to the other side of the lake? Why not have them wait and all go together?
3. If Jesus is Himself God (John 1:1-3), why did He need to go pray most of the night? What did He hope to gain from prayer? What can we learn about prayer from the fact that Jesus relied on prayer this way?
4. With the contrary winds making it so difficult, why did the apostles keep rowing instead of turning back? What lesson do you see in this for your own life?
5. Knowing exactly the difficulty they were in Jesus then came walking toward them on the water. Why do you think He started to walk past the boat instead of coming straight up to it?
6. Why did the disciples, when they saw Jesus walking on the water, think it was a ghost? Were they superstitious? After spending so much time with Jesus, why would they still be fearful like this?
7. What do you think motivated Peter to want to meet Jesus out there on that rolling water? How was Peter able to walk on the water part of the way to Jesus? Why did he begin to sink and why did Jesus rebuke him?
8. Matthew says the disciples worshipped and confessed that Jesus was the Son of God, but Mark says they had not understood the loaves because their heart was hardened. How do you harmonize these two reactions?
9. What happened when they landed in the area of Gennesaret as soon as people recognized Jesus? What evidence did they show of their consideration for Jesus and respect for His power?