

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: John – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: John 6:15-21 – the disciples tried to save themselves; Jesus walked on water.

Today's Message:

"A Walking Miracle"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we learned from the feeding of a great multitude with 2 fishes and 5 loaves. We considered how we often limit God in our lives. Yet Jesus is able and willing to share His endless provision with us and the world! Today, we come to the *fifth* miracle in John – Jesus will walk on **WATER**! As usual, there is more to this historical account than we often remember. The disciples were in quite a predicament while Jesus was **PRAYING** for them in a mountain. After quite a time of trying on their own, Jesus came walking on the water and brought **PEACE** to a very stressful situation! This is God's message to you.

LEARNING TOGETHER

A. The Text John 6:15-21

#1. Heavenly Prayers (15) – Jesus was alone in a mountain **PRAYING**.

HE DEPARTED AGAIN INTO A MOUNTAIN ***HIMSELF ALONE***

- ✓ This *fifth* miracle recorded in John appears in **THREE** of the Gospel accounts.
 - **Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52**
 - **Matthew** – Jesus constrained the disciples to get into a ship; he prayed **ALONE**.
 - **Mark** – Jesus constrained the disciples to get into the ship; he departed to pray.
- ✓ Jesus is called your great High Priest – He ever lives to and always prays for YOU.
 - **Heb 7:25** – Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, **seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.**

#2. Earthly Problems (16-19) – the disciples entered a ship **WITHOUT** Jesus.

HIS DISCIPLES WENT DOWN UNTO THE SEA... JESUS WAS ***NOT COME*** TO THEM

- ✓ Jesus ***constrained*** the disciples to get into a ship to cross the sea at **NIGHT**.
 - **Mt 14:22** – And straightway ***Jesus constrained his disciples*** to get into a ship...
 - **Mk 6:45** – And straightway ***he constrained his disciples*** to get into the ship...

AND THE SEA AROSE BY REASON OF ***A GREAT WIND*** THAT BLEW

- ✓ The sea became very dangerous and **TOSSED** the ship with the disciples in it.
 - **Mt 14:24** – But the ship was now... ***tossed with waves... the wind was contrary.***

Important Note
Luke is the only gospel account that does NOT include this miracle. He records the mount of transfiguration next.

Luke 6:8
But he knew their thoughts...

W1828
Constrained
Urged irresistibly or powerfully.

W1828
Toiling
Laboring with pain.

So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs....
Now 25-30 furlongs is approximated to be 3 to 4 miles. Remember, many of them are commercial fishermen. Mark says they were "toiling" in rowing – LABORING IN PAIN!

Question

What is the visual
you SEE right now?

Important Note

The fourth watch or
"darkest watch"
was 3am to 6am.

- ✓ It is important to visualize both Jesus and the disciples **BEFORE** He walks on water.
 - Jesus is **alone** in a mountain **PRAYING** – no doubt praying for the disciples!
 - The disciples are **painfully rowing** to try to **SAVE** themselves!
- ✓ It is also important to visualize and understand what Mark alone describes next...
 - **Mk 6:48** – ...and **about THE FOURTH WATCH of the night** he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and **WOULD HAVE PASSED BY THEM**.

#3. A Walking Miracle (19-21) – Jesus overrode laws of nature to bring **PEACE**!

THEY SEE **JESUS WALKING ON THE SEA**, AND DRAWING NIGH

- ✓ Jesus Christ has **AUTHORITY** over the *natural laws* He created! Amen.
 - **Mk 6:48** – ... he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea...

Examples...

Important Note

In the OT, God
rebuked the
storms and seas.
Ps 89:9; Nah 1:4

Jesus walked on water. Jn 6:19
Jesus walked on nothing. Acts 1:9
Jesus walked through walls. Jn 20:26
Jesus rebuked the wind. Mk 4:39; Lk 8:24
Jesus calmed the sea. Mk 4:39; Lk 8:24

Not to mention all the miracles...

Luke 7:22 – Then, Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that **the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised**, to the poor the gospel is preached.

Consider the laws of science ...

Natural Science – Jesus rebuked the wind and calmed the sea.

Biology – Jesus was born of a virgin.

Chemistry – Jesus turned water into wine.

Physics (law of gravity) – Jesus walked on water.

THEY WERE AFRAID **IT IS I; BE NOT AFRAID**

- ✓ The disciples thought Him to be a *spirit* until they heard his **VOICE**.
 - **Mt 14:26-27** – And when the disciples saw him... saying, **Be of good cheer**...

John 16:33
Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Acts 23:11
...the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul...

Acts 27:22
And now I exhort you to be of good cheer...

Acts 27:25
Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

AND IMMEDIATELY THE SHIP WAS **AT THE LAND** WHITHER THEY WENT

- ✓ Jesus brought *stability* and *peace* to the disciples' earthly problems.
 - **Mt 14:32** – And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.
 - **Mt 14:33** – Then they... **worshipped him**... Of a truth thou art the Son of God.
 - **Mk 6:51** – ...they were **sore amazed** ... beyond measure, and **wondered**.
 - **Mk 6:52** – **For they considered not the miracle of the loaves**: for their heart was hardened.
 - **Lk 24:28** – And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and **HE MADE AS THOUGH HE WOULD HAVE GONE FURTHER**...

And **WOULD HAVE** passed by them. 

It is evident that Jesus **WOULD HAVE** WALKED PAST THEM on the water. The only reasonable explanation is that He wanted them to ASK Him for help! What a truth! What is your situation today that you are rowing like crazy to save yourself from? Jesus is praying for you. Jesus can help you. Ask Him for help.