

That You May Have Life In His Name - John 6:16-21

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Jesus Walks on Water

¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷ got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸ The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened. ²⁰ But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." ²¹ Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

(Jn 6:16–21)

Darkness / rough waters / strong wind / storm
 This is where they see Jesus / frightened by the sight /
 Comforted by his voice / words — I'm here don't be afraid.
 Destination with Jesus.

Jesus Walks on the Water

⁴⁵ Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶ And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray. ⁴⁷ And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. ⁴⁸ And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them, ⁴⁹ but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, ⁵⁰ for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." ⁵¹ And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, ⁵² for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

(Mk 6:45–52)

Disciples in the boat to the other side / Jesus dismissing the crowd / To the mountain to pray /
 boat on the sea / Jesus along on land / against the wind / Jesus walking on the sea / They see /
 Ghost?! / Take heart — It's me / Don't be afraid / Jesus in the boat / wind ceases / They are
 astounded.

Jesus Walks on the Water

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. ²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

²⁸ And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹ He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”
(Mt 14:22–33)

Jesus / dismissing the crowds / sending the disciples ahead / praying alone
Disciples / far from shore / in a storm / against the wind
Jesus walks to them walking on the water / they are terrified / Ghost!
Jesus speaks / Take heart / I’m here / do not be afraid
Peter — Lord if... Peter walking on water until seeing the wind / more fear / sinking / Lord save me / The hand of Jesus takes hold / Little faith / why?
Jesus + Peter back in the boat / wind ceases / worship begins / Truly You are!

What are the common threads in this story.

- Jesus has a plan for the disciples and knows what will happen.
- Jesus sends them ahead and takes time along to pray
- The disciples find themselves against the wind / out on the water
- The disciples are already struggling with circumstances and seeing Jesus leads to their initial response of fear and disbelief: Ghost?!
- In each account of this story — fear is the primary response until they hear the voice of Jesus.
 - It is I - do not be afraid.
 - Take heart. It is I. Do not be afraid.
 - Take heart. It is I, Do not be afraid.
- Matthew shares Peter’s response — Lord if it’s you... I want to be where you are.... And Peter does walk on the water until he sees the wind and begins to sink, “Lord if it’s you --> “Lord save me!”
 - Lord save me — and we see the hand of Jesus save.
- The outcome of difficult circumstance + fear + the presence of Jesus and the words of Jesus result in:
 - Gladness to be with Jesus + reaching the destination
 - The wind stops and they are astounded.
 - The wind stops / worship begins / “Truly You are the Son of God.”

How does this inform our faith in Jesus today?

What was true then and still remains true today?

How much more can we be confident in Jesus?

- Jesus knew then and Jesus knows now.
- Jesus knew His mission then and Jesus knows the mission to which we are called.
- Jesus knew the storms they would face and the ways our lives will feel against the wind.

- The disciples initially mistake Jesus / react in fear / doubt / limited faith
- Jesus had to say each in each account.
 - It is I, Do not be afraid. Take heart.
- The outcome and end result of Jesus in the presence of a real storm, with legitimate fears and circumstances that are challenging... is that those who truly see Him are astounded / reach the destination / and respond in worship. Truly You are the Son of God.

Can you think of a time in your life when you were legitimately scared and fearful, where the wind was very much against you?

What do we need to remember when we face storms?

What do we need to remember when we are afraid?

What is the danger of not remembering what is true when we experience fear and opposition?

I go back to Peter and his experience with Jesus in the midst of the storm, even with his limited faith and propensity to let fear drive him... and what Peter learned and held onto... these are his words to the Church.

1 Peter 5:6–11 (ESV): 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. 10 And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. 11 To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God
 - I'm in a storm against the wind / I am afraid
- Casting all your anxieties on Him
 - Jesus I give you my fears
 - Jesus I give you my circumstances / my storm / my sinking boat
- Cast it all on him because he cares for you
 - Jesus I know what is true
 - Jesus I believe I'm known, loved, forgiven by you
 - Jesus I know I'm safe forever with you
- Be sober minded; be watchful — the adversary is real.
- Resist him, firm in your faith because many brothers are also in storms suffering
- The God of all grace who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ
 - God himself will restore you
 - God himself will confirm you
 - God himself will strengthen you
 - God himself will establish you.
- To God belongs the dominion / ruling power / authority forever and ever.

