

# The Miracles of Jesus

## Lesson Twenty-Two

### Walking on the Water

Text: Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:14-21

#### Introduction:

1. As Jesus and His apostles preached throughout Galilee, more and more people began to reject Him and to turn against Him.
2. Thus, Jesus attempted to withdraw from the crowd to a degree; but, multitudes continued to follow Him.
3. After miraculously feeding a multitude of about 5,000 men, Jesus commanded His apostles to sail across the Sea of Galilee to Bethsaida without Him.
4. Alone, He went up into a mountain to pray and stayed there until evening.
5. John informs us that He did this because the people wanted to take Him by force and make Him their king (John 6:15).
6. After spending the night in prayer, Jesus approached His disciples in an amazing manner...

#### I. The Miracle

- A. As the disciples sailed on the sea, they were caught in the middle by contrary winds.
  1. The “sea arose” due to these strong winds, causing great waves and danger (John 6:18 – literally, the sea was awakening).
  2. In Jewish reckoning, 7 ½ furlongs was about 1 mile.
  3. The Sea of Galilee is less than 10 miles across at its widest point (usually about 6 miles or 40 furlongs).
  4. So, they were literally stuck in the middle of the sea, even though the disciples were “toiling in rowing” (Mark 6:47-48).
- B. In the fourth watch of the night, Jesus came to them walking on the sea.
  1. The Jews divided the night into three watches of four hours each.
  2. The Romans divided the night into four watches of three hours each.
  3. Thus, the fourth watch was between 3:00 and 6:00 a.m. (cf. Mark 13:35).
  4. Mark says that He “would have passed by them,” but this does not mean that Jesus would have neglected their needs (cf. Luke 24:28).
- C. Jesus was not walking on the shore, but on the water itself!
- D. Thus, when the apostles saw Him they thought He was a ghost and were afraid.
- E. Jesus removed their fear by speaking to them and assuring them of His identity.
- F. With characteristic boldness, Peter asked to walk on the water also.
- G. Immediately upon Jesus’ entering into the ship, the wind ceased and they found themselves at their destination (John 6:21).
- H. The apostles recognized His deity (Matthew 14:33), but they were slow to understand what this truly meant (Mark 6:51-52).

## II. The Manifestation

- A. Again, Jesus demonstrated His deity by proving His power over nature.
- B. He also manifested great care and compassion for His disciples.
- C. He showed patience toward them in His teaching and discipline.
- D. He proved the spiritual nature of His kingdom by walking on the water to escape the multitude.

## III. The Message

- A. Jesus gives His followers peace.
  - 1. Sometime after three o'clock in the morning, the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water!
  - 2. Because it is impossible for a man to walk on water (without God), the disciples assumed that they were seeing a ghost.
  - 3. But, Jesus spoke and removed all superstitions and fears.
  - 4. His words brought peace to the troubled minds of His disciples.
- B. Jesus gives His followers purpose.
  - 1. When Peter understood that Jesus was present, he was moved to great boldness.
  - 2. Peter said, "Bid me come unto thee on the water."
  - 3. Jesus' answer provided Peter with a work to do, a task to accomplish and a purpose for his life.
  - 4. So, Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water!
  - 5. Notice that Peter walked on the water "to go to Jesus."
  - 6. However, he was soon overtaken by fear.
  - 7. Peter began to imagine that the power of the storm was greater than the power of the Savior.
  - 8. Peter neglected his purpose – to get to Jesus – and, instead, became focused on himself and the world.
- C. Jesus gives His followers protection.
  - 1. When Peter cried out, "Lord, save me," Jesus responded immediately.
  - 2. Jesus had been already protecting Peter from the storm.
  - 3. He protected Peter by allowing him to walk on the water.
  - 4. Now, He provides protection for Peter by pulling him back to safety.
  - 5. Jesus also protected Peter by telling him the reason why he had gotten into trouble in the first place.
  - 6. The final protection Jesus provided was His miraculous calming of the storm.