

## Water Walking Faith

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Mark 6:45-53 cf. Matthew 14:22-33 (text v. 31)

Immediately after the miracle of feeding 5,000, Jesus constrains the disciples to get into their boat and go back to “*the other side*” of the sea o Galilee. This is their fourth trip across the Sea of Galilee within a few days (Mk. 4:35; 5:21; 6:32; 6:45). READ text in Matthew 14:22-33.

### ➡ **Dispensational / Prophetic picture:**

1. The disciples are sent (v. 22). We are sent into the world.
2. Jesus goes up on high to intercede (v. 23). Jesus is in heaven interceding for us today (Heb. 7:25).
3. It is night-time (this age is pictured as night - John 9:4; Rom. 13:12; 1 Thess. 5:2). “*The fourth watch*” is 3:00 am - 6:00 am. The darkest part of night, just before the dawn.
4. The disciples are fighting contrary winds (adversities of life).
5. Jesus returns to rescue His church (Rapture is at hand).

**I. Jesus SENDING** (v. 22). He “*constrained*” them to go, knowing a storm was coming. **He had a purpose in sending them.** What was it? Test their faith? To illustrate the prophetic picture? To manifest His power over nature?

A. Obedience doesn’t always mean “smooth sailing.”

B. Doing the will of God may involve going through a storm. There is no such thing as a “storm-free” life.

**II. Jesus SEEING** (Mk. 6:48). Hagar said, “*Thou God seest me.*”

A. No amount of distance can obscure Jesus from seeing us. [Jesus on the mountain, the ship was about three miles in the middle of the lake, and it was dark.] Jesus knows what I’m going through!

B. Perhaps Peter had this incident in mind when he wrote, “*The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers*” (1 Pet. 3:12)

**III. Jesus STEPPING** (vs. 25-26). Like taking a stroll on solid ground.

➤ Job said, He “*treadeth upon the waves of the sea*” (Job 9:8). Since Jesus created the water, He can walk on it.

A. He comes to our rescue.

1. The Lord is never late in the timing of His help.
2. God is often mistaken as something frightful (v. 26). The troubled disciples think they are seeing a ghost and cry out in fear! Wouldn't you if you were there?

B. He walks on that which makes us afraid. He is in control of whatever makes us fear.

➤ Where was the water in relation to Jesus? UNDER HIS FEET! Whatever causes us to be afraid is already under His feet.

➤ They were worried about those waves getting in the boat, and Jesus just coming right on across. "Fellas, you may be worried about it but I walk on stuff like this."

➤ No matter how big your fear is (family problems; financial problems; employment problems — GOD IS BIGGER than your fear! What are you afraid of? Jesus says, “Don't fear... I walk on stuff like this!”

C. The water became the means of bringing Jesus closer to the disciples.

#### IV. **Jesus SPEAKING** (vs. 27-28).

A. He speaks to **cheer**.

B. He speaks to **calm**. How are you going to be calm when it appears you are about to sink? By hearing Him speak.

C. He speaks to **call** (“*come*”). Jesus did not command Peter to walk on water. He didn't constrain Peter. He INVITED Peter—He spoke just ONE WORD— “*COME*.”

#### V. **Jesus SAVING** (v. 30-31).

- Peter accepts the invitation and walks out to Jesus.
- But when he SAW THE WIND... To see the wind meant Peter lost sight of Jesus! Peter may have got his eyes off of Jesus, but Jesus never took His eyes off Peter.

- **Peter SINKING!** Peter began to sink when his faith wavered and he cried, “*Lord, save me.*”

- ➡ “*And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand [singular], and caught him.*” Peter was within arm’s distance of Jesus for Jesus to catch him!
- ➡ “*O thou of LITTLE FAITH...*” Jesus DID NOT say, “O thou of NO FAITH.” Peter had faith. He had more faith than the other disciples in the boat. He had more faith than I would have had! Peter had WATER WALKING FAITH!




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If you are saved, you have *some faith*— Some of you more than others. Jesus would probably say to me, “O thou of *tiny* faith.”

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- ➡ **Consider the power of “*little faith.*”**

A. “*Little faith*” can move your **POSITION** (v. 29).

1. It was faith in ONE WORD that gave Peter “enough faith” to move from his position in the boat (Rom. 10:17).

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It was a little faith that moved me from my position as a journeyman tool maker in Detroit to come to a place I’ve never been to start a church in Redmond, WA in 1974.

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2. Peter had to leave the security of the boat. The storm was still raging—He did not move when it was easy.

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It was faith that moved the Trembly’s position from good paying and secure jobs to go to China as missionaries.

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3. Peter moved **when it was unpopular**—No one else was moving.
  - Is Jesus inviting you to “*COME*” and move your position?
  - Does God want you to move out of the comfort zone of your boat and walk by faith in some ministry (Life Group ministry). Maybe He is calling you to full-time ministry or the mission field?

- How much faith will it take to move you? Jesus said, “*If ye have **faith as a grain of mustard seed**, ye shall say unto this mountain, **Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you**” (Mt. 17:20).*

B. “**Little faith**” will make a PLEA (v. 30). Peter didn't waste words. Martin Luther said, “The fewer the words, the better the prayer.”

1. A little faith will cause you to cry out on God when you are in a “sinking situation”— Sinking into the sea of depression... the slough of despond... the ocean of despair. Have a “*little faith*” to pray—“*Lord, save me!*”
2. That is all it takes for Jesus to save you (Luke 18:13; Rom. 10:13). How do you suppose Peter made it back to the boat?

C. “**Little faith**” will motivate other PEOPLE (vs. 32-33).

1. What would make someone confess Jesus is “*the Son of God?*” They saw what Jesus was doing with Peter, and it motivated them to worship.
2. When people see God working in response to your “*little faith,*” it will move them to believe also. Have you ever seen or read about God’s moving in response to someone’s faith, and it inspired you to believe God would do the same for you?
3. I have been motivated by seeing the “faith” of others in this church—Answered prayers... witnessing... sacrificial giving.

**SUMMATION:** Is Jesus inviting you move your position and walk on the water by faith?

1. Jesus SENDS us—Follow His plan.
2. Jesus SEES us—Rest in His care.
3. Jesus STEPS to us—He has power over what makes us fear.
4. Jesus SPEAKS to us—Accept His invitation to trust Him.
5. Jesus SECURES us—Even when our faith falters.