

3-2018

The Miracles of Jesus Christ: Walking on the Water

Harold Willmington

Liberty University, hwillmington@liberty.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/second_person



Part of the [Biblical Studies Commons](#), [Christianity Commons](#), and the [Religious Thought, Theology and Philosophy of Religion Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Willmington, Harold, "The Miracles of Jesus Christ: Walking on the Water" (2018). *The Second Person File*. 249.

https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/second_person/249

This The Miracles of Jesus Christ is brought to you for free and open access by the Theological Studies at Scholars Crossing. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Second Person File by an authorized administrator of Scholars Crossing. For more information, please contact scholarlycommunications@liberty.edu.

THE MIRACLES OF JESUS CHRIST

TWENTY: Walking on the Water (Mt. 14:22-33; Mk. 6:45-52; Jn. 6:15-21)

SURVEY

The context surrounding this event is that in recent days Jesus was rejected at Nazareth, His home town (Matt. 13:54-58) and His friend John the Baptist had been executed by King Herod (Matt. 14:1-12). When Jesus heard the news He went by boat to a secluded spot across the Sea of Galilee but people came from all around and followed him by land to where he was. What followed next was the miracle feeding of the 5,000 (Matt. 14:13-21). After meeting the needs of the multitudes through healing the sick and by a miraculous provision of food, Jesus sent the Twelve by boat across the lake to Bethsaida (Mk. 6:45). He then sent the crowd away and went into the hills to pray. But the crowds started searching for Him to make Him their King (Jn. 6:15). Consider this outline account of the event from Matthew 14:22-33.

- I. Events preceding His walk on the water (14:22-24)
 - A. The command to the disciples (14:22)
 - B. The communion with the His Father (14:23)
 - C. The crisis involving His disciples (14:24)
- II. Events during his walk on the water (14:25-33)
 - A. The approach to the boat (14:25)
 - B. The alarm among the disciples (14:26)
 - C. The assurance by the Savior (14:27)
 - D. The attempt by Peter to walk on the water (14:28-31)
 - E. The awe displayed by His disciples (14:32-33)

SIGNIFICANCE

- This marks the first of two instances where the disciples thought that Jesus was a ghost (Mt. 14:26; Mk. 6:49). The other occasion would transpire in the Upper Room following Jesus' glorious resurrection:

"And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have." (Lk. 24:36-39)

- It records the shortest prayer in the entire New Testament: "LORD, SAVE ME!" (Mt. 14:30)

- In the first miracle where Christ stilled a stormy wind-driven sea the disciples exhibit fear (Matt. 8:26; Mark 4:40). But in this second miracle with Christ walking on the sea they are filled with amazement and awe and are driven to worship Christ as God's Son (Matt. 14:33).¹
- The miraculous feeding of bread from heaven and the miraculous crossing of the Sea of Galilee take us back to the Exodus, where God miraculously fed the people manna and delivered them through the Red Sea.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- What lessons can be learned from this life-threatening event?
 1. Theological: God uses the elements of creation for His purposes.
 2. Christological: Messiah-King Jesus rules over His kingdom.
 3. Historical: God's plan for reaching Israel has shifted to Christ's special focus on the teaching, training and equipping of the Twelve.
 - 4: Personal: As His disciples we often run into great storms on the sea of life.
 - We are to remember that He has sovereignty over all forces that come against us.
 - Jesus' continual presence guarantees our safety.
 - A principal to embrace is that the Christ-follower must focus not on the need, or challenge or danger but upon the sufficiency of Christ and what He has already provided for us.

¹ Note that John's account mentions their fear but not their worship.