

JESUS WALKS ON WATER

Introduction

In John 6, Jesus performs the largest miracle that He ever did by taking the lunch of a little boy and feeding 5,000 men with it. Afterwards, the people try to make Him king but He refuses and sends the 12 disciples off in a boat to cross the Sea of Galilee alone. While they are on the lake, Jesus comes to them in a most peculiar manner which is what we are going to talk about this morning by looking at “4 Perspectives from the Miracle of Jesus Walking on Water.”

1. The Perspective of the Disciples in the Storm (verses 16-18).

Verses 16-18 says, “Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, and after getting into a boat, they started to cross the sea to Capernaum. It had already become dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea began to be stirred up because a strong wind was blowing.”

Discussion Question A: Explain the phrase “strong wind” in your own words. Was this a small storm or a big one?

Discussion Question B: What were the disciples doing right before they entered into this storm and how does it shed light on their situation?

2. The Perspective of Jesus in the Storm (verses 19-21).

Verses 19-21 says, “Then, when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat; and they were frightened. But He said to them, ‘It is I; do not be afraid.’ So they were willing to receive Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.”

Discussion Question A: Why did Jesus say “It is I; do not be afraid?”

Discussion Question B: How does this shed light on the disciple’s situation as well and how did Jesus encourage them by “immediately” bringing the boat to shore?

3. The Perspective of Peter in the Storm (Matthew 14:26-29).

The Gospel of John is not the only book that wrote about this miracle. The Gospel of Matthew did as well and it adds an extra detail to John's account when it tells us that: "When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.' Peter said to Him, 'Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.' And He said, 'Come!' And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus" (Matthew 14:26-29).

Discussion Question A: How did this miracle put Peter's faith on display?

Discussion Question B: Did Peter continue to walk on the water with Jesus or did he stop? What caused him to stop and what are some lessons that we can learn from that today?

4. The Perspective of the Disciples After the Storm (Mark 6:51-52).

The Gospel of Mark also spoke about this miracle as well and it elaborates on the story when it says that at the end of all of this: "[The disciples] were utterly astonished, for they had not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves, but their heart was hardened" (Mark 6:51-52).

Discussion Question A: What does it mean to say that the disciples "hearts were hardened?"

Discussion Question B: Was this the first miracle that the disciples saw Jesus do on that day? So why were they so utterly astonished at all of this? How would it have helped them to develop a greater view of Christ?