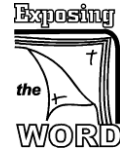




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13- He's Still Walking on the Water 6:16-21

Jesus had just preformed His fourth sign miracle recorded by John with the feeding of the 5000 men in *John 6:1-15*. We looked at this in our last session. Jesus will explain the significance of the bread of life, beginning in *John 6:22*, the day following the feeding.

Tucked between the feeding and the explanation is the fifth sign miracle recorded by John, Jesus walking on the water. Warren Wiersbe said, "The feeding of the 5,000 was the lesson, but the storm was the examination after the lesson." (p 310)

There are parallel gospel accounts in Matthew and Mark. I have included the text of these at the end of this session's text.

I- Disciples Set Sail:

Joh 6:16 And when even was now come, his disciples went down unto the sea, 17 And entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was now dark, and Jesus was not come to them.

We are told in *Mat 14:22 And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.*

There are some that fell that Jesus was rescuing the disciples by telling them in no terms that left room to argue with to get in the boat a set sail. He then dismissed the crowd.

So the scene unfolds before us with the disciples, obedient to the Master, setting sail at dark.

II- Storm on the Sea:

From the parallel gospels accounts we find that Jesus next went up onto the mountain to pray. Some say that from this vantage point He saw the storm approaching and realized that the disciples were in

trouble. Did the storm surprise Jesus. I think not. Jesus knew the storm was going to arise. It seems in Marks account that Jesus saw, but the question is did he see from the shore or see, as He does today, the dangers we are in. *Mark 6:48 And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them:*

Joh 6:18 says, And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew. 19 So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs...

They had left land and had traveled to the middle of the Sea of Galilee some 3-4 miles. Now they are in the middle of the storm. We must remember these men were fishermen and accustomed to the weather changes. Still they were ill equipped to handle this storm.

We need to stop now and see a couple of things. One sometimes we find ourselves in the midst of the storm because we are doing God's will. Sometimes the storms come when we are obedience to God from outside forces. Notice the following verses that suggest this.

2Ti 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

Joh 15:20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you...

We are also taught in the Scriptures what our responses should be. *Rom 12:14 Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.*

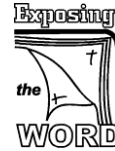
Another reason for the storms of life is disobedience. Just ask Jonah if disobedience causes storms.



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So storms will arise, some by our making some by others. Did you notice they were not equipped to handle the storm? Most of the time we are not either but we have one who is.

III- Jesus Walking on the Water:

May we speculate that the night was especially dark with the storm swirling? They were busy rowing and probably praying. We are told by Matthew and Mark that it was the fourth watch or from 3-6 in the morning. They had toiled all night to no avail. Notice *Joh 6:19b ...they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid.*

Matt 14:26 says, "And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear."

They thought they were seeing a ghost on the water. Mark tells us that he would have passed by like He was only on a stroll across the lake. So now Jesus has suspended the law of gravity and is walking on the surface of the water which could not hold up the weight of a man. This is the fifth sign miracle of John.

IV- Get Jesus in the Boat:

Next John tells us that He spoke to them and then entered the boat.

Joh 6:20 But he saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid. 21 Then they willingly received him into the ship...

What Jesus said to them is translated "But He said to them, "It is I AM; do not fear." In the *English Majority Text Version (EMTV) of the Holy Bible, New Testament.* By Paul W. Esposito.

This is the only English translation that says exactly what the original language says. The Bible Knowledge Commentary says, "The clause **It is I** is literally "I Am," and was used by Jesus (in

8:58) with strong theological meaning." (p 294)

We see from John that they were immediately out of peril and at land. *Joh 6:21b ...and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went.*

V- Other Facets:

We go to the other Gospel accounts to find another facet of this beautiful story. One of these facets is that Peter asked to walk on the water with Him. Notice *Matthew 14:28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. 29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. 31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?*

The lessons are many from this. We have heard the well used and true application of as long as Peter kept his eyes on Jesus he did not sink but when he, as well as we, take our eyes off Him we sink.

We also see that Jesus reaches out to help us when we are sinking because our faith has grown weak.

VII- The Other Miracles in the Miracle.

John's focus is the miracle that verifies the Messiah and he focused on the part of the story needed for this. However, as we look at all of the accounts of the story we see there are several things that took place that are miraculous as well.

First, Jesus walking on the water was a miracle. The significance of this is enhanced when we see some other verses from the Old Testament.



Speaking of God, Job said in *Job 9:8* **Which alone spreadeth out the heavens, and treadeth upon the waves of the sea.**

Pro 30:4 **Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?**

Beloved the very nature of this miracle leaves no room for doubting that Jesus was God wrapped in flesh and dwelled among men.

Did you also notice the miracle of Peter walking on the water? This is a second miracle as part of the first. Then there was the instant calm of the storm (Matt 14:32). And finally the fourth miracle wrapped in this one is they were instantly at land (John 6:21).

VIII- The Verification:

We are not told how many were on the boat, nor if there were more than just the twelve disciples. Notice their reaction as He was verified to their hearts. *Matt 14:33* **Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.**

Do you know the Savior who is still walking on the waters during the storms of life? Have you trouble that you need to roll onto Him and release?

Matthew's Account:

Mat 14:22-33 **And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. 23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. 24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. 25 And in**

the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. 26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. 27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. 28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. 29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. 31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? 32 And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased. 33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

Mark's Account:

Mark 6:45-51 **And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people. 46 And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray. 47 And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land. 48 And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them. 49 But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out: 50 For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid. 51 And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered.**