

Matthew 14:22-34, "In Over His Head?"

Opening remarks

- The examination phase is the most important partly because it is the most neglected.
- Review the steps in good reading with the **R-E-A-D** acronym.
- This event is recorded by three Gospel writers, but only Matthew mentions Peter walking on water.

Recognize—narrative

Examine

Some words to notice

"long distance"

"walked on the water"

"ghost"

"battered by waves"

"terrified"

Some unexpected statements

"Command me to come."

"Come!"

Some questions

- ✓ How many people walked on the water?
- ✓ What might it have looked like to watch Jesus walk on water?
- ✓ What might it have felt like for Peter as he walked on the water?
- ✓ How did Peter get back to the boat?

Analyze

- ✓ Why didn't Jesus simply get in the boat with His disciples in the first place?
- ✓ Who initiated Peter's excursion?
- ✓ Did Jesus want Peter out there on the water with Him?
- ✓ What might Jesus have been thinking as He watched Peter walk toward Him on the water?
- ✓ If Peter started sinking when he started doubting, what does that imply about his first steps out of the boat?
- ✓ Were Jesus' words to Peter really a strong rebuke? How much faith did Peter have? How much faith did the men who stayed in the boat have?
- ✓ Do you think Peter later regretted stepping out of the boat? Do you think Jesus regretted telling Peter to come?

Decide

- ✓ Was Peter being presumptuous? If not, why not?
- ✓ From Jesus' word, "Come," what impression do you get of what He wants?
- ✓ Jesus is busy doing supernatural things in the world. Do you believe that He wants you to take risks with Him and have a piece of that action?
- ✓ What will you do about that? Talk to Him about it.