

Jesus Walks on Water—Part 1

Matthew 14:22-36 (cf. Mark 6:45-51; John 6:15-21)

I. An Opportune Time (vss. 22-23)

- a. In the wilderness, Satan only left Jesus "**until an opportune time**" and this appears to be one of them! (cf. Luke 4:13; Matt. 4:8-10; 16:23; John 6:15)
 - i. So, Jesus removed His disciples from the temptation, and the temptation from Him, and then He sought after God the Father in prayer! (cf. James 4:7)
- b. The disciples were apparently caught up in the excitement of the crowds, Jesus force them to leave: **made = anagkazō** (ἀναγκάζω) = "to compel, to force"
- c. Jesus knew He was sending them into a bad storm, but He also knew they were safer there in God's will, than with the crowds outside of God's will
 - i. So, don't be fooled into thinking that you are IN God's will just because things seem to be going well and don't assume that you are OUT of God's will just because things aren't going the way you want them to!

II. Jesus Walks on Water (vss. 24-25)

- a. The Sea of Galilee was roughly the same size as Lake Norman and it was about 6 miles from Bethsaida to Gennesaret
 - i. But the topography of the Sea produces fast-developing storms like the one the disciples experienced (cf. Matt 8)
- b. **the wind was contrary** so they had to resort rowing "**straining at the oars, for the wind was against them**" (Mark 6:48)
- c. **stadios** (στάδιος) = roughly 200 yards
 - i. 25 to 30 **stadios** = 3 to 4 miles, so the wind had pushed them into the middle of the lake (cf. John 6:19)

d. **the fourth watch** = the Romans divided the night into 4

three-hour watches:

- i. which means they may have been rowing for 6-7 hours
- ii. Jesus often wants us to struggle until we have run out of our own human resources, until we have exhausted all our own power and plans, and are prepared to surrender to Him and His will!

e. **He came to them, walking on the sea** (cf. Job 9:8 NIV)

III. I AM (vss. 26-27)

- a. The disciples were physically exhausted and emotionally spent, when they first saw Jesus walking toward them on the water
 - i. So, it's no surprise **they cried out in fear = phobos** (φόβος) = "a state of severe distress, aroused by intense concern for impending pain, danger, evil, etc."
- b. Jesus replied with 3 statements of great comfort and encouragement:
 - i. **take courage = tharseō** (θαρσέω) = "to have confidence and firmness of purpose in the face of danger or testing—to be courageous, to have courage, to be bold" (cf. John 16:33)
 - ii. **do not be afraid = mē phobeō** (μὴ φοβέω) = "to be not afraid" (cf. Matt. 14:27; 17:7; 28:19; Mark 6:50; Luke 5:10; 12:32; Jn. 6:20; Rev. 1:17)
 - iii. **it is I = egō eimi** (ἐγώ εἰμι) = **I AM** (cf. Ex. 3:13-14; Isa. 43:10)
 - 1. Christophany= the appearance of the preincarnate Christ
 - 2. God's Covenant Name = Yahweh = **I AM WHO I AM**

"**I AM the bread of life**" (John 6:35, 41, 48, 51)

"**I AM the light of the world**" (John 8:12; 9:5)

"**I AM the door**" (John 10:7 and 9, ESV)

"**I AM the good shepherd**" (John 10:11, 14)

"**I AM the resurrection and the life**" (John 11:25)

"**I AM the way and the truth and the life**" (John 14:6)

"**I AM the true vine**" (John 15:1, 5)