Matt. 14:22-33, "Walking on the Sea" by Rev. Paul Hudson

The Miracles of Jesus in Matthew Summary, Sermon Notes Handout, Daily Devotional, Study Questions, & Crossword, 11/1/26

Summary

Big Idea

Jesus, the Creator King and great I Am, comes into our stormy chaos, calls us toward himself, catches our faltering faith, and receives our worship.

After feeding the five thousand, Jesus compelled his tired disciples into a boat, then prayed alone while they battled wind all night. Their storm was not an exemption from following Jesus but a setting for new revelation. Jesus walked on the sea, the ancient symbol of chaos, judgment, and evil, showing that nature lives under his rule, not the other way around.

When fear made Jesus seem like a ghost, he answered, “Take courage! I Am.” Peter responded to Christ’s call, not blind faith, and briefly walked toward him. Yet fear broke his trust, and Jesus immediately caught him while exposing his little faith. Their response was worship: Jesus is truly the Son of God, whose coming kingdom ends untamed chaos and brings life, peace, and wholeness.

Keys and Themes

1. Compelled Into the Storm

Jesus compelled the disciples into the boat, even though a storm awaited them. Their all-night battle prepared them for Christ’s presence to appear in an unexpected way.

2. The King Treads on Chaos

The sea represented uncontrollable chaos, judgment, and evil, yet Yahweh alone treads its waves. Jesus walking upon it reveals the Creator King’s dominion over nature and chaos.

3. I Am in the Darkness

Fear distorted the disciples’ vision until Jesus looked like a ghost. His immediate words, “I Am,” announced a greater presence brooding over the dark, stormy sea.

4. Come by Christ’s Call

Peter did not act in blind faith; he asked Jesus to command him. Faith moves toward Christ in response to Christ’s compelling call, even across an impossible path.

5. Caught and Led to Worship

Peter’s momentary faith collapsed into fear, but Jesus immediately caught him and corrected his doubt. After returning to the boat, even Peter’s failure became part of worshiping the Son of God.

Sermon Notes Handout

Sermon Title: Nov 1 Matt 14_22_33 Walking on the Sea | **Scripture:** Matthew 14:22–33

Point 1: Sent into the storm

Fill in the blank: "following Jesus does not mean you are exempt from battling _____"

Question: Where are you battling a storm?

Notes:

_____

_____

Point 2: The King comes

Fill in the blank: "nature lives under Jesus' _____"

Question: What does Jesus rule over?

Notes:

_____

_____

Point 3: Hear the I Am

Fill in the blank: "Fear will always distort your perception of _____"

Question: Has fear distorted your vision?

Notes:

_____

_____

Point 4: Called to come

Fill in the blank: "Faith is not blind; faith always moves toward _____"

Question: What step is Jesus calling?

Notes:

_____

_____

Point 5: Caught, corrected, worshiped

Fill in the blank: "Worship is the best and only response when our faith has been _____"

Question: Will you return to worship?

Notes:

_____

_____

Reflection Question: Where do you need to turn your eyes back to Jesus and cry, "Save me, Lord"?

Next Step: Name your storm before the Lord and ask him for faith to move toward him.

Family Discussion Question: How does Jesus catching Peter change how we respond after fear or failure?

Created Using AfterSermon

Daily Devotional

Sunday — Compelled Into the Storm

Scripture: Matthew 14:22–25

Jesus made, or compelled, the disciples to enter the boat without him after a long day of ministry. Then the wind came against them, and they rowed through the night. Following Jesus did not exempt them from frightening circumstances. Their battle set the stage for a new revelation of Christ's presence. Our nightly battles can bring us to places where he shows up in ways we never expected. Jesus was not absent in indifference; he was on the mountain praying, and he comes to his people.

Reflect Questions:

1. Where has following Jesus included a storm?

2. How might this battle prepare you to see Christ?

Monday — The King Above the Sea

Scripture: Matthew 14:25; Job 9:8; Psalm 77:19

For the ancient Jewish world, the sea pictured unrest, danger, judgment, and evil raging against God's people. Yet the Old Testament says Yahweh treads upon the waves. Jesus comes walking on the stormy sea, demonstrating that chaos is under his feet. Nature may seem to uphold everything, and we may feel ruled by its untamable forces. But biblical theology says Jesus upholds the universe by the word of his power. The unpredictable forces that frighten us remain well within his control.

Reflect Questions:

1. What chaos feels uncontrollable to you today?

2. How does Jesus above the waves reshape your fear?

Tuesday — I Am in the Darkness

Scripture: Matthew 14:26–27; Exodus 3:14

The disciples saw Jesus, but fear made them call him a ghost. Fear can distort perception: it turns closets into havens for monsters and Jesus into something terrifying. Into their darkness, Jesus immediately spoke: "Take courage! I Am. Don't be afraid." His words connect him with the God of the Hebrews. The storm had not yet stopped, but a greater presence had entered the chaos. It was not a ghost or imagination. The great I Am was with them on the stormy sea.

Reflect Questions:

1. Where has fear distorted what you see?

2. What does Jesus' "I Am" say to you?

Wednesday — Come at Christ's Word

Scripture: Matthew 14:28–29

Peter saw an impossible path between himself and Jesus: stormy water. Yet he did not simply launch out on his own. He said, "Lord, if it's you, tell me to come," and Jesus said one word: "Come." Faith is not blind when it moves toward Christ in response to Christ's compelling call. Peter heard Christ's word and stepped out. Jesus sustained every impossible step toward him. When Christ calls, the path may still look like an impossible sea, but his presence is there to guide you through it.

Reflect Questions:

1. What impossible path stands between you and Jesus?

2. What word from Christ are you obeying?

Thursday — Caught and Corrected

Scripture: Matthew 14:30–33; Hebrews 12:6

Peter's great faith was real, but it was momentary. When he saw the wind, fear broke his trust, and he began to sink. His cry was simple: "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out and caught him. But Jesus did not leave Peter off the hook; he exposed the doubt beneath Peter's short-lived faith. The Lord catches our fall and then disciples us because he loves us. When fear and failure leave an embarrassing splash, we turn back to worship the Son of God together.

Reflect Questions:

1. What do you need to ask Jesus to save?

2. How can worship answer your recent failure?

Friday — Eyes on Jesus, Not Wind

Scripture: Matthew 14:29–31; Isaiah 43:1–3

Peter began well because he moved toward Jesus. A few steps later, he saw the wind and felt the tumultuous sea beneath his feet. Reality hit, and his fear broke his faith. The sermon does not say Peter sank because nature finally took over; he sank because his trust in Jesus failed. We cannot carry ourselves through impossible paths. The Lord holds us above what would naturally drown us. Isaiah promises that when we pass through waters, he will be with us; the "waters" will not sweep over us.

Reflect Questions:

1. Which wind has captured your attention?

2. How can you turn your eyes back to Jesus?

Saturday — Waters Made New

Scripture: Revelation 21:1; Revelation 22:1; Isaiah 55:1, 12–13

The stormy sea gives a glimpse of both our unsettled creation and Christ's coming kingdom. Creation still groans, and nature can feel angry, unpredictable, and unsafe. Revelation's statement that there is no longer any sea is symbolic: untamed chaos will be no more. In the new creation, waters no longer picture judgment and evil; the river of the water of life pictures life, peace, and wholeness. The Creator King will settle his world, and his people will not run and hide from an angry creation.

Reflect Questions:

1. What future peace does Christ promise creation?

2. How does new creation hope strengthen you today?

Study Questions

Read Matt. 14:22-33 and listen to the sermon "Walking on the Sea" (11/1/26)

Observation

1) What did Jesus compel the disciples to do after dismissing the crowd?

2) Where was Jesus while the disciples battled the wind through the night?

3) What did the disciples call Jesus when they saw him walking on the lake?

4) What happened when Jesus and Peter climbed into the boat?

Interpretation

1) How does Jesus walking on the sea reveal his dominion over chaos and nature?

2) Why does the sermon connect Jesus' "I Am" to God's name in Exodus?

3) Why was Peter's faith not blind when he stepped from the boat?

4) What does Jesus' question expose about Peter's momentary faith?

Application

1) How has fear distorted your perception of Christ or your circumstances?

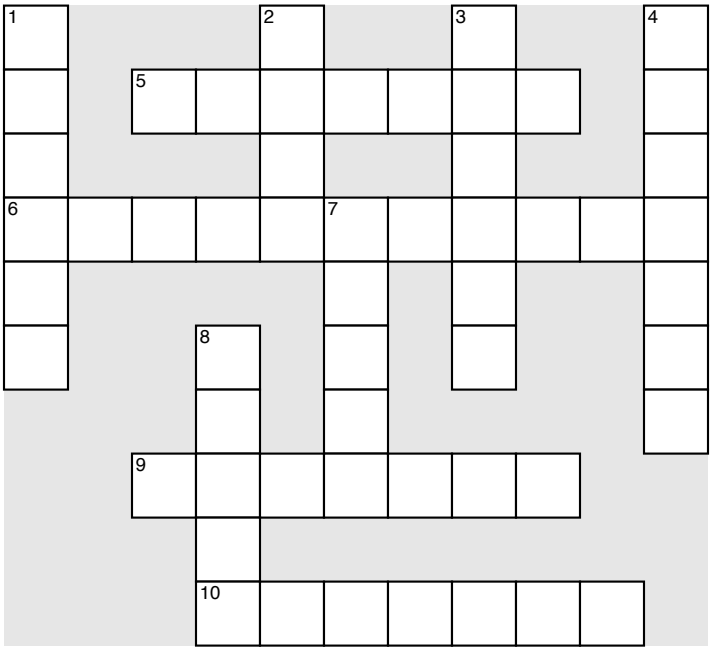
2) What impossible path may Christ be compelling you to take toward him?

3) If or when your faith falters in front of many, how should you respond?

4) How can worship answer your fear, doubt, or embarrassing failure?

Crossword Puzzle

Walking on the Sea | Matt. 14:22-33 | 11/1/26



Across

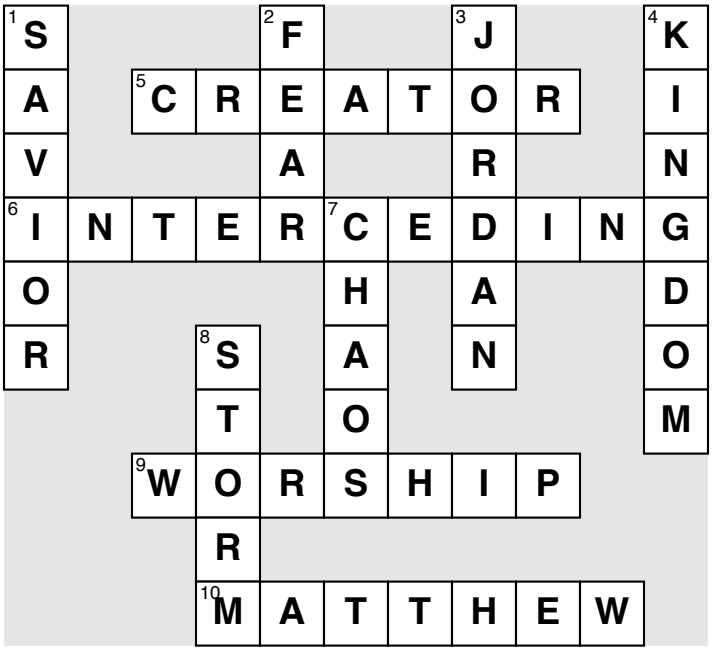
5. Jesus sustains all things as this
6. What Christ does for us according to Romans
9. The boat's response to the Son of God
10. Gospel containing this miracle account

Down

1. Title in Isaiah's promise through waters
2. What distorted the disciples' perception
3. River miraculously crossed by God's people
4. Realm glimpsed through nature miracles
7. What the sea symbolized in ancient thought
8. Frightening setting for Christ's revelation

Crossword Answer Key

Walking on the Sea | Matt. 14:22-33 | 11/1/26



Across Answers

5. CREATOR
6. INTERCEDING
9. WORSHIP
10. MATTHEW

Down Answers

1. SAVIOR
2. FEAR
3. JORDAN
4. KINGDOM
7. CHAOS
8. STORM