

**Matthew 14:22-33:** Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. <sup>23</sup> And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup> but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. <sup>25</sup> And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. <sup>26</sup> But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup> But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." <sup>28</sup> And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." <sup>29</sup> He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." <sup>31</sup> Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" <sup>32</sup> And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. <sup>33</sup> And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

**Intro: Song:** My God is so big, so strong and so mighty; There's nothing my God cannot do  
My God is so big, so strong and so mighty; There's nothing my God cannot do  
He made the trees; He made the seas; He made the elephants too  
My God is so big, so strong and so mighty; There's nothing my God cannot do

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty; There's nothing my God cannot do  
My God is so great, so strong and so mighty; There's nothing my God cannot do  
The mountains are His; The rivers are His; The skies are His handy works too  
My God is so great, so strong and so mighty; There's nothing my God cannot do  
There's nothing my God cannot do; There's nothing my God cannot do; For you

We saw this last week when Jesus fed the 5,000 men (10-20K total) & 12 baskets were left over! Jesus is the Bread of Life Who more than satisfies! Jesus shows us that He is the true God Who can meet all our needs! He alone can meet all of our true needs! Today we see again that Jesus is so big, so strong, & so mighty – He's the God-Man Who walks upon the sea. He terrifies His disciples! If you fear Jesus, you have nothing else to ever fear!

### **1. Jesus Dismissed The Crowds And Got Alone To Pray**

**Matthew 14:22-23:** Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. <sup>23</sup> And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray.

- 1) Jesus didn't want the crowds to misunderstand Who He was – to declare Him some kind of earthly king:  
**John 6:15:** Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew  
2) He wanted to be alone in the presence of His Father and pray (May we imitate Jesus in this!)

3) Jesus is sovereignly sending His disciples into the storm

- **Thomas:** Don't be surprised, my friends, don't be surprised if you follow Jesus and you heed His word, and you pray prayers like, "I want to be closer to You, Lord; I want to be a better disciple; I want to be more useful for You." Don't be surprised if that means a storm is coming . . . Don't complain when the storm comes, because here were these dear disciples, and in obeying Jesus they found themselves in a storm.

- **Hendriksen:** How often do believers ascribe their unpleasant experiences to the [working of some evil] power, when in reality they are the manifestations of Christ's loving care? How frequently does that which at first appears to be a stumbling-block turn out to be a stepping-stone to glory?

### **2. Jesus Walks On The Sea**

**Matthew 14:23-25:** When evening came, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup> but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. <sup>25</sup> And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea.

**a. Jesus is not with the disciples in the boat in the storm on the sea, but Jesus is helping them: He's praying!**

**Hendriksen:** O that an artist would reproduce this combined scene: the disciples apparently in peril of losing their lives on this stormy sea, but Jesus on that hill interceding for them, undoubtedly including also this petition, that they might be safe-guarded against misleading Messianic conceptions & that their lives might be spared so that they would be able to carry out their tasks. Seen from that angle, were not these men perfectly safe after all? & does not this combined picture have many applications for the present day & for every time of trouble and distress?

- **Romans 8:34:** Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died - more than that, who was raised - who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

- **Louis Berkhof:** It is a consoling thought that Christ is praying for us, even when we are negligent in our prayer life; that He is presenting to the Father those spiritual needs which were not present to our minds and which we often neglect to include in our prayers; and that He prays for our protection against the dangers of which we are not even conscious, and against the enemies which threaten us, though we do not notice it. He is praying that our faith may not cease, and that we may come out victoriously in the end.

- **Robert Murray M'Cheyne:** If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies. Yet distance makes no difference. He is praying for me.

- **Erik Raymond:** How can these blessed realities [not] drive us close to the Savior, even to His chest like the Apostle John? He is more committed to His sheep than His sheep are to Him. We lag & linger but he is praying while we slumber. The truth of Jesus' ceaseless, fervent, impassioned, hearty, & successful intercession on my behalf calibrates my wayward heart afresh to the glories of Christ & drops fresh dew from heaven on my earth scorched lips.

**b. Jesus came to them, walking on the sea: Fourth Watch: 3am to 6am; Here, Jesus does the impossible!**

**Jesus' passing by (Mark's Gospel) reveals to us Who He is: Exodus 33:21-22:** And the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, <sup>22</sup> and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by.

- **Job 9:8:** He alone stretches out the heavens and treads on the waves of the sea.

- **Job 9:8, 11:** Who alone has stretched out the heavens, and walks on the sea as on firm ground . . . <sup>11</sup> Behold, he passes by me, and I see him not (**Jesus is God!**)

### **3. The Disciples' Terror And Jesus' Comfort**

**Matthew 14:26-33:** But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, & said, "It is a ghost!" & they cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup> But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

**a. The disciples were afraid:** Doesn't it make sense that if they saw someone walking on the water, they would think it is a ghost?! People with flesh and blood don't walk on water! Some try to explain this away – they saw him walking on the shore! No – Jesus is walking on the water! He is revealing His glory as the God Who alone treads upon the waves!

And this is a fearful thing! Often when people see God showing off His miraculous power, it's a fearful thing! The text says "the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified" - They saw the glory of God in Christ walking upon the water! And that can be frightening, especially if this God is not on your side. **GOSPEL!**

**b. Jesus cares for His frightened disciples:** Take heart; take courage; be of good cheer; I am with you now; I'm here; everything is going to be all right! He loves! But if He loves and can't do anything; if He's not powerful – then who cares, you should still be afraid! But Jesus is all powerful! He's as all powerful as God Himself because He is God Himself.

**c. Jesus is the great I AM:** Jesus said the disciples: "take heart, I AM!"

- **Exodus 3:14:** God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM."

- **John 18:6:** When Jesus said to them, "I AM," they drew back and fell to the ground.

- **John 8:58:** Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."

**Kevin DeYoung:** Jesus walks the way God walks and talks the way God talks!

**Spurgeon:** Believer, Jesus says to you, "I am." Is your wife dead? Is your child to be buried? Have your possessions failed? Is your health departing? Are your joys declining? Alas! it is a dying, fleeting world, but there is One Who is always the same, for Jesus says to you, "I am; and because I live, you shall live also." Be comforted; whatever else is gone, wherever else the arrows of death may fly, your Jesus still lives. "I am:" blessed word of rich comfort to be heard amid the darkness of the night.

Jesus is our Lord; our Master; our Friend; our Brother; our Husband; our Savior; our Joy; our Comfort; our reason not to fear anything; our God Who is working all for our good; He's the lover of our souls!

**d. In Christ, God is on your side! Isaiah 43:1-2, 15-16:** But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. <sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you . . . <sup>15</sup> I am the LORD, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King." <sup>16</sup> Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters . . .

**Mark Dever:** 43 times in Isaiah God says, "I am" and He follows it with "fear not".

- **Verse 27:** But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." (**Jesus is God!**)

#### **4. Peter's Little Faith**

**Matthew 14:28-31:** And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." <sup>29</sup> He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." <sup>31</sup> Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

**a. Peter had faith:** He believed in Jesus enough to get out of the boat and walk on the water!

**b. Jesus calls Peter to come to Him: Spurgeon:** Peter, when he was in the water, was where his master had called him to be, & you in your trouble now, are not only Christ's servant, but you are where Christ has chosen to put you. Your afflictions, remember, come neither from the east nor from the west, neither does your trouble grow out of the ground. All your suffering is sent upon you by your God . . . Every grain of this bitterness which now fills your mouth was measured by the heavenly physician. There is not an ounce more trouble in your cup, than God chose to put there. Your burden was weighed by God before you were called to bear it. The Lord who gave you the mercy has taken it away; the same God who has blessed you with joy is he who has now ploughed you with grief. You are where God put you. Ask yourself this question then: Can it be possible that Christ would put his own servant into a perilous condition & then leave him there? I have heard of [evil spirits], in fables, tempting men into the sea to drown them; but is Christ [evil]? Will he entice his people on to the rocks? Will he tempt them into a place where he shall destroy them? God forbid. If Christ calls you into the fire, he will bring you out of it; and if he bids you walk the sea, he will enable you to tread it in safety. Doubt not, soul; if you had come there of yourself, then thou might fear, but since Christ put you there, he will bring you out again. Let this be the pillar of your confidence – you are his servant, he will not leave you; you are where he put you, he cannot suffer you to perish. Look away, then, from the trouble that surrounds you, to your Master, & to his hand that has planned all these things.

**c. Peter's faith & focus turned away from Christ alone to his surrounding circumstances:** He saw the wind, the effects of the wind, & he was afraid & began to sink. How often do we do this? (Sickness, Loneliness, Loss, Trial, Failure, Sin, Self, Drowning in the sea – really scary stuff!)

**d. Peter still knew where to go when he needed help:** Peter still trusted in Jesus to save him! He cried out to Jesus: "Lord, save me!" **Verse 31:** Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him

**e. God saves from the water: Psalm 18:15-16:** Then the channels of the sea were seen, & the foundations of the

world were laid bare at your rebuke, O LORD, at the blast of the breath of your nostrils. <sup>16</sup> He sent from on high, he took me; he drew me out of many waters.

- **Psalm 69:1-3:** Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck. <sup>2</sup> I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me. <sup>3</sup> I am weary with my crying out; my throat is parched. My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God.

The Bible says only God is the deliverer at sea: **Exodus; Psalm 107:29:** He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed; **Jonah (Jesus is God!)**

**f. Unlike Peter, let's keep looking to Jesus: Verse 31:** saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

**Spurgeon:** Remember too, Who it is Who is with you where you are. It is no harsh tyrant who has led you into trouble. It is no austere unloving heart Who has bidden you pass through this difficulty to gratify a capricious whim. Ah, no, He Who troubles you is Christ. Remember His bleeding hand; and can you think that the hand which dropped with gore can ever hang down when it should be stretched for your deliverance? Think of the eye that wept over you on the cross; and can the eye that wept for you be blind when you are in grief? Think of the heart that was opened for you; and shall the heart that did bleed its life away to rescue you from death, be hard and emotionless when you are overwhelmed in sorrow? It is Christ, Who stands on that great wave in the midst of the storm with you. He is suffering as well as you are. Peter is not the only one walking on the sea; his master is there with him too. And so is Jesus with you today, with you in your troubles, suffering with you as He suffered for you. Shall He leave you, He Who bought you, He Who is married to you, He Who has led you thus far, He Who has helped you until now, He Who loves you better than He loves Himself, shall He forsake You? O turn your eyes from the great wave, listen no longer to the howling storm, turn your eyes to Him your loving Lord, your faithful friend, and fix your trust on Him, Who even now in the midst of the storm, cries, "It is I, be not afraid." . . . Peter was nearer his Lord when he was sinking than when he was walking.

**Spurgeon:** "Looking unto Jesus." Hebrews 12:2; It is ever the Holy Spirit's work to turn our eyes away from self to Jesus; but Satan's work is just the opposite of this, for he is constantly trying to make us regard ourselves instead of Christ. He insinuates, 'Your sins are too great for pardon; you have no faith; you do not repent enough; you will never be able to continue to the end; you have not the joy of His children; you have such a wavering hold of Jesus.' All these are thoughts about self, & we shall never find comfort or assurance by looking within. But the Holy Spirit turns our eyes entirely away from self: He tells us that we are nothing, but that 'Christ is all in all.' Remember, therefore, it is not your hold of Christ that saves you – it is Christ; it is not your joy in Christ that saves you – it is Christ; it is not even faith in Christ, though that be the instrument – it is Christ's blood & merits. Therefore, look not so much to your hand with which you are grasping Christ, as to Christ; look not to your hope, but to Jesus, the source of your hope; look not to your faith, but to Jesus, the author & finisher of your faith. We shall never find happiness by looking at our prayers, our doings, or our feelings; it is what Jesus is, not what we are, that gives rest to the soul. If we would at once overcome Satan & have peace with God, it must be by 'looking unto Jesus.' Keep your eye simply on Him; let His death, His sufferings, His merits, His glories, His intercession, be fresh upon your mind; when you wake in the morning look to Him; when you lie down at night look to Him. Oh! let not your hopes or fears come between you & Jesus; follow hard after Him, & He will never fail you. My hope is built on nothing less; Than Jesus' blood and righteousness I dare not trust the sweetest frame; But wholly lean on Jesus' name!

## **5. The Disciples Worship Jesus, The Son Of God**

**Matthew 14:32-33:** And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. <sup>33</sup> And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

**a. Jesus calms the storm again:** Jesus has already calmed another storm by speaking to it (Matt. 8:26). Here as soon as He gets in the boat, the storm ceases. **Psalm 107:28-29:** Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. <sup>29</sup> He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed.

**Commentator:** Jesus has authority to settle totally any crisis when He is ready to do so.

**b. Jesus' disciples confess the truth about who Jesus is: Verse 33:** And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

This is the first time Jesus' disciples call Him the Son of God in Matthew's Gospel.

God calls Jesus His Son: **Matthew 3:17:** This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.  
The devil calls Jesus the Son of God: **Matthew 4:3:** the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God"  
Demons call Jesus the Son of God: **Matthew 8:29:** they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God?"

**Hendriksen:** Jesus had walked upon the water. He even enabled Peter to do likewise. He rescued Peter. He stilled the storm. He had done all this and more! He had walked upon the water to them, to be with them & to comfort them, to strengthen them in their faith. Thus the power & the love of their Lord had been gloriously manifested.

**c. Jesus' disciples worship Him:** Only God is to be worshiped! Jesus is God!

**MacArthur:** Looking in the Gospels, for example, we see the wise men worshiping him in Matthew 2. We find the leper worshiping him in Matthew 8. We find the Gentiles worshiping him in John 12. We find a Syrophenician woman worshiping him in Matthew 15. We find a maniac out of the tombs worshiping him in Mark 5. We find a blind man worshiping him in John 5. We find the disciples worshiping him at his resurrection, worshiping him again in the mountain, Matthew 28, and worshiping at his ascension in Luke 24. If we look in the Epistles, we find in Hebrews chapter 1 that all the angels of God worship him. If we look in Philippians in the letter of Paul, we find that God demands that every creature on the earth, over the earth and under the earth bow the knee to worship Jesus Christ. If we go all the way to the consummation and the Revelation, we find him being worshiped by all those in glory in chapter 4, chapter 5, chapter 11, chapter 19. So that this theme sweeps its way through the Gospels, the Epistles, to the Revelation of the New Testament, that Jesus Christ is to be worshiped.

**Jesus Is The I AM HE; Who Passed By On The Sea; Makes Fears Flee; And Sets Hearts Free!**

He's the waves of the sea walker  
The no one ever spoke like Him talker  
The hound of heaven love stalker  
The all fear conquering blocker  
The Galilee wind rocker  
And the stand in awe disciple shocker!

He went up on the mountain to pray  
His Father always showed Him the way  
So He wouldn't go astray  
But be faithful in all He'd do and say  
His disciples He'd soon dismay  
As He put on display  
His beauty and power in glorious array  
Which reached its climax when on that cross they'd slay  
But He'd forever take away  
All fear and every kind of decay  
And all His children with good repay  
For He rose up from the grave on the third day!

That's my King!

The wind pushed the disciples back  
The sea and sky were black  
And they seemed to be off track  
Strength to move forward they'd lack  
But then they saw something that 'bout made them crack  
God on the sea right now we'll unpack!

Job said it's God Who treads upon the wave  
But that's how we see Jesus behave  
Now He Himself is all the rave  
For God so loved the world He gave  
That He might save sinners who misbehave  
Make them His slave  
And grant them Him alone to crave!

That's my King! Do you know Him?!

They saw Him walking on the sea  
Showing His identity is key  
He is the I AM HE Who alone can set you free  
From needing any he or she  
Because He Himself your all must be!

After He satisfied them all with bread  
And sent the disciples on ahead  
Upon the waters Jesus tread  
And filled the disciples all with dread  
But then He turned His head  
And with conviction said "I AM!"  
And that's what God to Moses said!  
So let all your dread be dead and never spread  
But put your trust in Him instead  
For you know He bled and rose from the dead  
To be the Church's perfect Head!

That's my King!

Christ walked the seas before He'd die  
Many question His passing by  
They're wondering what and asking why  
But if you have an Old Testament eye  
"This is amazing!" you might reply  
For it shows us Jesus is God Most High  
Since it's God Himself Who passes by  
When Moses in the rocks comply  
Now God in flesh has now drawn nigh  
So at these truths don't think and sigh  
But drink deeply from His infinite supply  
And to Him for grace and mercy cry!  
The great I AM gets in the boat  
By His Word the world's afloat

To show His identity Mark and Matthew wrote  
He doesn't need your support or vote;  
To Him alone all allegiance we must devote!

That's my King! I wonder if you know Him today?!

If you trust Him then don't be afraid  
He'll be your unshakable aid  
And life giving shade  
Your heart He'll invade  
Just as you prayed  
You won't be swayed  
Even at the threat of a blade  
Because to you unspeakable love He's displayed  
With His life He paid  
On that cross we've  
In the tomb He was laid  
But death He'd evade  
And with glory is forever arrayed!

So don't harden your heart  
You don't have to be smart  
Just believe in your heart  
And He'll set you apart  
No matter what you've done, you'll get a fresh start  
And He'll recreate your life like precious fine art!

That's my King! That's my King!

Christ Jesus Walked Upon The Sea  
He's God, I AM, The One In Three  
Job Spoke Of Him And Now We See  
Our God, Creator Make Wind Flee  
Don't Fear What's Been Or Might Shall Be  
Just Look To Christ, That Is The Key  
He Rules O'er All By His Decree  
He Bore God's Wrath Upon That Tree  
He Died And Rose To Set You Free  
From Sin And Death And Hell Took He  
So In Our Doubts To Him We Plea  
Increase Our Faith To Great Degree  
He's Son Of God, Our Jubilee  
We Worship Him On Bended Knee  
He Fills Our Hearts With Joy And Glee!