

Theme: Jesus refuses the false expectations of the crowd, but reveals His true identity to His disciples by walking on the water, and confirms it through His healing power.

## I. Intro - The Metaphor of Being A Water Walker

- A. He walks on water - a whole metaphor from this event!
- B. Bruce Almighty - Morgan Freeman (God) walks on water
- C. But scholars have tried to explain the event away!
- D. A really famous event - but what is happening?

## II. The False Expectations of the Crowd

- A. Jesus' surprising immediate actions after the miracle  
Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>46</sup> After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray. Mark 6:45–46
  - 1. Jesus “immediately compelled them” - strong words
  - 2. Jesus dismisses the crowd and prays alone
  - 3. Why such urgency for Jesus, why dismiss the crowd, and why pray alone at night again?
- B. The False Expectations of the Crowd
  - 1. John tells us of the false expectations of the crowd  
After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, “Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.” <sup>15</sup> Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself. John 6:14–15
    - a. The people thought Jesus must be the Prophet promised to come - the Messiah

- b. They wanted to make Him King by force
  - c. This is the temptation Satan offered in the wilderness - all the kingdoms without the cross
  - d. Jesus knows the disciples will be suspect to this temptation and die and sends them away.
  - e. This is why he compels them to get in the boat and leave!
  - f. Jesus withdraws to pray in the face of this renewed temptation in the wilderness.
- 2. The crowds often have false expectations of Jesus' identity, purpose, and kingdom, and disciples can be seduced by these worldly views of Jesus and His Kingdom if they are not careful.
    - a. Today some want to change the identity, character, and teaching of Jesus to line up with our current cultural morals - and this is disastrous!
    - b. Others want to bring Jesus' Kingdom by political power and force rather than the cross - and this is equally disastrous!
    - c. Disciples must resist both of these Satanic temptations and embrace Jesus and His Kingdom as they actually exist, rather than how we desire them to be!
    - d. God was faithful to His Son - even through death itself!

## III. Water Walker - Jesus Reveals His Glory

- A. The disciples encounter strong winds  
When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. <sup>48</sup> He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, Mark 6:47–48

1. The disciples encounter strong winds against them
2. They are not in danger as before - they just can't make progress to get to their destination
3. Jesus sees them - this is probably supernatural sight since it is dark (3-6 AM) and John tells us they were about 3 miles away (John 6:19)

B. Jesus walks on the water- another amazing miracle!

He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night he went out to them, **walking on the lake**. He was about to pass by them, <sup>49</sup> but when they saw him walking on the lake, **they thought he was a ghost**. They cried out, <sup>50</sup> because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." <sup>51</sup> Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, <sup>52</sup> for **they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened**. Mark 6:48-52

1. The disciples think they are alone - but Jesus is watching them and fully aware of their struggles
2. Jesus walks on the water - an incredible miracle!
3. This is yet another miracle to give a clue to the identity of Jesus!
4. But the disciples still don't understand - their hearts are hardened
5. They know He fed the people in the wilderness - but they still don't understand Who He is, His true identity and glory. (also see Mark 8:17)
6. But Mark is giving the reader clues so that we can understand the glory and identity of Jesus

C. Jesus walks on the water to reveal His glory and identity

1. God is the Water Walker

He alone stretches out the heavens and **treads on** the waves of the **sea**... <sup>11</sup> When he passes me, I cannot see him; when he **goes by**, I cannot perceive him. Job 9:8, 11

He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night he went out to them, **walking on the lake**. He was about **to pass by** them, Mark 6:48

- a. v8 - treads on the sea - same Greek as "walking on the lake"
- b. v11 - "goes by" - same Greek word as "pass by"
- c. Jesus is the Water Walker passing by - God!
- d. But in Job God can not be seen or perceived - but He Jesus God now may be seen and perceived!

2. God "passes by" to reveal His glory and identity

And the Lord said, "I will cause all my goodness **to pass** in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence." Exodus 33:19

The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about **to pass by**." 1 Kings 19:11

He was about **to pass by** them, Mark 6:48

- a. Exodus 33:19 - God "passed by" Moses to show Moses His glory and goodness and proclaim His Name (YHWH)
- b. 1 Kings 19:11 - Elijah stands as Yahweh "passes by" and reveals Himself to Elijah

- c. This same word *παρέρχομαι* is used in Mark 6:48
- d. Jesus is not passing by because He accidentally missed them - He is passing by them to reveal His glory and identity as the Lord of Heaven and Earth, the Water Walker!

### 3. God is the Great I AM

And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “**The Lord, the Lord**, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, Exodus 34:6

because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take courage! **It is I**. Don’t be afraid.” Mark 6:50

- a. Exodus 34:6 - God “passed by” and proclaimed the Divine Name - YHWH - the Great I AM
- b. Mark 6:50 - Jesus passes by and proclaims I AM!

- 4. Jesus walking on the water is much more than a miracle - it is the revelation of His Deity and Glory.
- 5. The reason the disciples do not need to fear is Jesus is no mere phantasm or ghost, nor is He a magician doing tricks with fish and bread and upon the water - He is none other than the Sovereign Lord of Heaven and earth who treads upon the waves and reveals Himself to His people as their Creator and Redeemer.

### D. Jesus’ identity is confirmed

Then he climbed into the boat with them, and **the wind died down**. They were completely amazed...<sup>56</sup> And wherever he went — into villages, towns or countryside — they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and **all who touched him were healed**. Mark 6:51, 56

- 1. Jesus’ identity and glory are revealed as the wind must die down in His Presence - the Water Walker rules the winds.
- 2. Jesus’ identity and glory are revealed as sickness is healed by His Presence - the Water Walker bears the diseases of people and they are healed in His Presence.

## IV. Applying the Word

### A. Responding to the Water Walker

- 1. The crowd had their own desires for Jesus - but He would not come on their terms
- 2. They wanted someone to give them free meals and to wield political power
- 3. The disciples still did not understand and thought Jesus was a ghost!
- 4. Like the crowds and the disciples, we can so easily misunderstand or even fear Jesus!
- 5. Is there something that keeps you from responding to Jesus?
  - a. Perhaps you are afraid of Him - but He has come to redeem, forgive, and restore us!
  - b. Perhaps you want Him at a distance - but He wants to walk with you in ALL of life
  - c. Perhaps you have other agendas that are more important - but He calls us to His story and agenda!
- 6. In Jesus, the Eternal, invisible God has stepped into time and become visible!
- 7. In Jesus we behold the face of God - and it offers us forgiveness and freedom!

## B. The Bread and Cup of Life

1. In John 6, after walking on the water Jesus addresses the deepest needs of humans
2. The people wanted more tricks with fish and bread!
3. But Jesus offered Himself - the True Bread of Life
4. Come to receive the Bread and Cup of Life!

### Water Walker

Mark 6:45-56  
July 16, 2023  
Communion  
Isaiah 43:1-3

Teaching keywords: Christology; Jesus; Deity of Christ; faith; fear; fear of God; miraculous gifts and signs

But now, this is what the Lord says — he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. <sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. <sup>3</sup> For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. Isaiah 43:1–3

Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>46</sup> After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray.

<sup>47</sup> When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. <sup>48</sup> He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, <sup>49</sup> but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, <sup>50</sup> because they all saw him and were terrified.

Immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

<sup>51</sup> Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, <sup>52</sup> for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened. <sup>53</sup> When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. <sup>54</sup> As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. <sup>55</sup> They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. <sup>56</sup> And wherever he went — into villages, towns or countryside — they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed. Mark 6:45–56