

# Walking On Water

Week 33 ~ Notes for October 30th

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## Background

Subject	Matt	Mark	Luke	John
Walking on water	14:22-33	6:45-53		6:16-21

Today is a follow-up from our discussion last week on the Feeding of the 5000.

## Walking On Water

There were two storms on two boats involving Jesus and his disciples:

1. Matt 8:23-27; Mark 4:36-41; Luke 8:22-25. Disciples in Fear (Jesus asleep)
2. This week's texts. Disciples in Fear (Jesus absent most of the night, appears walking on the water)

**Question:** In your own journey in life have you ever felt abandoned by God. That he is missing in action when you most desire his help?

In the incident where Jesus was sleeping in the boat, they were crossing the lake, on the way to the country of the Gadarenes. All the locations for the walking on water incident are on the same side of the lake, yet the texts talk about crossing the lake, and John refers to the opposite shore of the lake. Their use of terminology was obviously different to our modern usage. The fact that they ended up in Gennesaret confirms that the headwind was so strong they were travelling backwards. Instead of getting closer to Capernaum they landed further away. They may well have been close to the shore most of the night.

### Questions

1. Have you ever felt you were making no progress despite all your efforts?
2. Has Jesus ever turned up when you were exhausted with self-help?

# Peter's attempt to walk on water

Only Matthew reports this!

## Questions:

1. Does the absence of this account in Mark surprise you?
2. What spiritual lessons can be found here?
3. Does it tell us anything about Peter?

Response of the Disciples

Matthew

*Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."... And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret. And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to him and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.*

Is it possible that when the sea went calm it was now daylight and they were so close to the shore that it only took a few minutes to reach land safely? Compared with their all-night rowing efforts that would have been immediate!

## Questions:

1. On what other occasion does Jesus have to assure them with the words "it is I"?
2. How do you view the reactions of the disciples?
3. What do you think about the touching of his cloak, as the way to healing?

The most important part of the story is in fact a repetition of a similar incident.

*Matt 14:27 "Jesus went up on a mountainside to pray by himself alone"*

He deliberately stepped aside!

Mark 1:35-39 (Luke 4:41-44) Jesus also withdraws to spend time in prayer) and when he is found REFUSES their request to stay there.

## Questions:

1. Why did Jesus constantly retreat to pray in solitude?
2. Why did he do so when the disciples and the crowds were wanting his presence?
3. Do we take prayer seriously enough?