

Gospel of Matthew “Walking on Water”
Matthew 14:22-44
July 16, 2023

Matthew 14:22–33 ESV

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. 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. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.”

And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

John 6:14–15 ESV

When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, “This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!”

Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

They wanted to make Jesus king.

Jesus withdrew to be strengthened by the Father.

The storm causes chaos and destruction.

“I am”

Isaiah 43:1-3

“Fear not, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

3 For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

In the middle of the storm, Christ’s presence becomes more real.

He commanded him to come, so he might sink and know his own weakness.

Hebrews 12:2 ESV

looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God

Grow Group Discussion Questions

- 1.) What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- 2.) Why did the people in John 6 want to make Jesus king? What were they hoping for?
- 3.) How might Jesus’ model of pulling away to pray be an encouragement to you? Is it easy right now to find silence and solitude with God? If not when has that been easy? Why might it be hard in this season of life? What are some ways you could build silence and solitude into your life?
- 4.) What about the text surprises you? Why would Jesus allow the disciples to sail into the middle of a storm?
- 5.) In what ways have you experienced great success that was followed closely by suffering? How did this make you feel? About your success? About God? About your suffering?
- 6.) As Jesus is walking on water towards the disciples they are terrified and they mistake Jesus for a ghost? How does fear disorient us to what God might be doing? What does Jesus say to calm their fear? Why is this important?

- 7.) How does Peter's faith in walking on water encourage you?
- 8.) Jesus called Peter out on the water knowing he would sink. How might this encourage us when we suffer in the midst of obedience
- 9.) Peter takes his eyes off Jesus and begins to sink. He looks at his circumstances. Is there anything in your life causing you to take your eyes off Jesus? How could you readjust your focus?
- 10.) How does Peter's faith and sinking mirror what it is like to be a disciple of Jesus at times? In what ways have you experienced similar moments in life?
- 11.) When Peter cries out "Lord, save me!" Jesus comes immediately. Is there anywhere in life you need to call out to Jesus?
- 12.) From your Grow Group time, what is an idea or two from your discussion that you can work to apply this week?