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WALKING ON WATER

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# What does it mean to walk on water?

- It means to live pursuing God above all else.
- It means doing the difficult and even the impossible in obedience to God
- It means answering the call of the dream that God has placed on your heart.

# How is it done?

- One step at a time
- Keeping your eyes on Jesus

# Two Parallel themes

- The nature of Jesus attitude toward storms
- Peter's struggle to follow his passion at the expense of his comfort

22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray.

- Jesus facing a crisis of His soul
- Ps 84:5-7 Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools. They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.

When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. 25 During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.

- Jesus watched them struggling for 9 hours and did nothing!
- Why did Jesus not intervene?
  - James 1:2-4
  - John 16:33

26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

- When we are most stressed we fall back on superstition and suspicion

27 But Jesus immediately said to them:  
"Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

- Jesus words produce after their kind.
- Ps 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.
- John 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

# Jesus response to storms (Mk4, Matt14)

- Appears to have no intention of stopping them.
- John 10:18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again.
- Matt 10:39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

- Peter's dilemma

- Peter's hunger

In order to walk on water need to subordinate some things to our desire to be with Jesus.

- Our perceived need for comfort and safety
- Our risk aversion
- Our perception of others opinions of us

29 "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.  
30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

- Peter was walking on the Word of God.
- It was not the violence of the winds, nor the raging of the waves, which endangered his life, but his littleness of faith. Barnes

31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

- Every moment we stand in need of Christ: while we stand, we are upheld by his power only; and when we are falling, or have fallen, we can be saved only by his mercy. Let us always take care that we do not consider so much the danger to which we are exposed, as the power of Christ by which we are to be upheld; Adam Clarke

32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. 33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

- Succeed or fail, stepping out of the boat will always lead to a greater revelation of God and His goodness and will always lead to increased worship.