

Title: THEY WALKED ON WATER, MT. 14:22-33
(Chatham, NJ; 08/07/11, AM) [Pc – Narrative Eyewitness Perspective]

Theme: The three Gospel writers who recorded Jesus walking on the water all learned something different from it.

Purpose: To discover Matthew's amazement, Mark's insight, and John's conversation.

Introduction:

1. Just as we looked at the feeding of the 5,000 from through the eyes of three different people, today we'll look at Jesus' walking on water through three sets of eyes, but this week those three people will be Gospel writers: Matthew, Mark, and John.
2. Luke does not record the event.
3. Other than to amaze the disciples, it seems to serve no practical purpose like feedings and healings.
4. There is even an indication that Jesus did not mean for them to see him.
5. Let's see what we can learn from them.

I. Comparing the Accounts

A. Matthew 14:22-33

1. Jesus dismissed them so he could pray by himself.
2. The boat encountered a stiff headwind.
3. He came to them in the 4th watch of the night: 3 – 6 AM.
4. Thought they saw a ghost
5. Mt. mentions their fear and exhaustion.
6. Jesus tells them, "Don't be afraid."
7. Peter goes out on the water with him (only in Mt.).

B. Mark 6:45 – 51

1. Also to pray by himself
2. He meant to pass them by, 48.
3. Mark mentions their fear of him being a ghost.
4. He leaves out Peter coming to Jesus on the water.
5. This is odd because we have an early tradition that Mark recorded Peter's memories of the Gospel.
6. However, only Mark brings out this idea of their hardness of heart concerning the loaves; they didn't understand about the loaves.

C. John 6:16 – 21

1. No mention of prayer
2. 3 – 4 miles offshore, rowing (which makes sense)
3. John's account is brief; he saves most of his insights for when Jesus arrives on land.
4. The crowd wonders how Jesus got there because they saw that he had not gotten into the boat with the disciple, 22-25.
5. John seems to mention the walking on water only to explain this.

II. What Each Man Saw

A. Matthew

1. Not a sea-faring man; for some reason Matthew gets a lesson here.
2. Perhaps Matthew was impressed with Peter's courage.
3. Peter's initial courage and then his fear of the wind gave Matthew an experiential lesson in faith.
4. He also notes that the disciples worshipped Jesus, 33, and confessed.

5. This was the second time an experience at sea revealed Jesus' nature and power.

B. Mark

1. His lesson is unique among the three.
2. Mark relates it to their lack of understanding about the loaves, an insight that Mt. also mentions in Mt. 16:7.
3. It is still a faith issue: the loaves represent how they should not worry because Jesus can and will provide for them.
4. Mark just points out their lack of faith.

C. John

1. He links Jesus to the discussion about the crowd seeking food.
2. He doesn't seem to draw any other meaning from it.
3. His interest is to show how Jesus got there, and once there Jesus discusses that he is the bread of life—something the other writers don't include.

III. Collective Lessons

A. Do not be afraid!

1. Jesus will provide food – the problem of the loaves.
2. Jesus will protect you from the storms.

B. Trust Jesus; Have Faith!

1. The issue with the loaves demanded the same trust as walking on the water.
2. Keep your eyes on him.

C. Worship him.

1. What kind of man can walk on the water?
2. Only God.

Conclusion:

1. Remember the loaves.
2. Imitate the faith of Peter.