



## Walking on the Water

Matt 14

### Jesus Walks on the Water

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 mountain side by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, 24 and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. 25 Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." 28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." 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!" 31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" 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."

Setting is the Sea of Galilee

- 1) Jesus gets rid off the disciples, takes quiet time after a stressful day, and goes up the mountain. Something spectacular is about to happen.
- 2) A storm sweeps down and the disciples are terrified. They refuse to believe that Jesus is in the storm- even though he has walked out to them.
- 3) Peter steps out onto the lake but sinks when he realizes what is happening. Even when Peter's faith fails, Jesus pulls him out of the water.
- 4) Our fail WILL fail and Jesus WILL be there for us.
- 5) Jesus treats Peter with kindness and grace, even when he has every excuse to be disappointed with him.
- 6) We need to learn the same lesson. Often the church has bought into the idea that condemnation and anger are the tools that motivate change, and with that so have we. Yet the lesson that this miracle teaches is that grace produces change, because it allows the person to choose their path freely.
- 7) Condemnation doesn't produce maturity and wisdom. It may produce obedience/ compliance for a while but it doesn't produce a mature person who makes good decisions and that's what God wants from us, and so should we.