



Rice Memorial MBC

Rice Memorial Missionary Baptist Church

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Jesus' Mighty Power

Definitions in **bold** letters are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 /1913 Edition
or **Roget's** Thesaurus – **April 28, 2024**

YouTube: RiceMemorialMissionaryBaptistChurchYoutube.com

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Matthew 14:22-36

Introduction: Herod, having heard the fame of Christ, supposes him to be John the Baptist, risen from the dead, Matthew 14:1, Matthew 14:2. A circumstantial account of the beheading of John the Baptist, Matthew 14:3-12. Five thousand men, besides women and children, fed with five loaves and two fishes, Matthew 14:13-21. **The disciples take ship, and Jesus stays behind, and goes privately into a mountain to pray,** Matthew 14:22, Matthew 14:23. A violent storm arises, by which the lives of the disciples are endangered, Matthew 14:24. In their extremity, Jesus appears to them, walking upon the water, Matthew 14:25-27. **Peter, at the command of his Master, leaves the ship, and walks on the water to meet Christ,** Matthew 14:28-31. They both enter the ship, and the storm ceases, Matthew 14:32, Matthew 14:33. They come into the land of Gennesaret, and he heals many diseased people, Matthew 14:34-36. (Source: <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/clarke/matthew/14.htm>)

Intro Continued: Our lesson is set on the Sea of Galilee. In 1986, the remains of a boat from the time of Jesus were discovered buried in the mud near the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Excavated and now on display, the boat is probably typical for the time. **It measures 27 feet** in length and **7.5 feet** at its widest point. It could have been propelled by oars, a sail, or both.

Such boats were quite safe when the weather was fine. But storms can arise quickly on this lake. Because its western coastline features steep hills, a storm blowing in from that direction, from the Mediterranean Sea, might be seen by boaters only when it is nearly upon them. A small boat hit by high winds is in a perilous condition, even on such a small lake. (Source: *Uniform Series International Bible Lessons for Christian Teaching*)

Matthew 14:17-22, *And they say unto him, **We have here but five loaves, and two fishes.** He said, Bring them hither to me. And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. **And they did all eat, and were filled:** and they took up of the fragments that remained TWELVE baskets full. And they that had eaten were about FIVE thousand men, beside women and children. **And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.***

NOTE: —St. John narrates more fully the impression made by the miracle. It led those who witnessed it to the conclusion that **“this was the Prophet that should come into the world.”** **They sought to seize Him and make Him a king against His will** (John 6:14-15), and He, shrinking from that form of sovereignty, withdrew from His disciples, dismissed the multitude, and on the mountain height passed the night in prayer. The disciples at His bidding were crossing to the other side to Bethsaida (Mark 6:45)—i.e., to the town of that

name on the western shore of the lake near Capernaum (John 6:17).
(Source: <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/ellicott/matthew/14.htm>)

John 6:12-15, When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten. **Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth THAT prophet that should come into the world.** When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, **to make him a KING, he departed again into a mountain himself ALONE.**

Matthew 14:23, And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to PRAY: **and when the EVENING was come, he was there ALONE.**

NOTE: The word "even," as used here, referred to the first even which began at THREE o'clock in the afternoon; **the SECOND even began at SIX o'clock.**
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/eng/bcc/matthew-14.html>)

Matthew 14:24-25, **But the SHIP was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the WIND was contrary And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, WALKING on the sea.**

NOTE: Anciently the Jews divided the night into **three watches**, consisting of **four hours** each. The first watch is mentioned, Lam. 2:19: the second, Judges 7:19; and the third, Exodus 14:24; but a fourth watch is NOT mentioned in any part of the Old Testament. This division the Romans had introduced in Judea, as also the custom of dividing the day into twelve hours: see John 11:9. The **first watch began at six o'clock** in the evening, and continued till nine; the **second** began at nine, and continued till twelve; the **third** began at twelve, and continued till three next morning; and **the fourth began at THREE, and continued till SIX.** **It was therefore between the hours of THREE and SIX in the morning that Jesus made his appearance to his disciples.**
(Source: <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/clarke/matthew/14.htm>)

NOTE: **But the ship was now in the midst of the sea** - John says they had sailed about 25 or 30 furlongs. About 7 1/2 Jewish furlongs made a mile; so that **the distance they had sailed was NOT more than about 4 miles.** At no place is the Sea of Tiberias much more than 10 miles in breadth, so that they were literally in the midst of the sea.

Walking on the sea. A manifest and wonderful miracle. It was a boisterous sea. It was in a dark night. **The little boat was FOUR or FIVE miles from the shore**, tossed by the billows. (Source: <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/barnes/matthew/14.htm>)

Mark 6:48, And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night **he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have PASSED by them.**

NOTE: **and would have passed by them; that is, he made as though he would;** see Luke 24:28. By the course he steered, by the swiftness of his motion, and his seeming negligence of them, **it LOOKED as though he intended to have gone by them, and said nothing to them,** though this was FAR from his REAL design.
(Source: <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/gill/mark/6.htm>)

Luke 24:28-29, And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and **he made as though he would have gone further.** But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. **And he went in to tarry with them.**

Thought 1. This miracle, like ALL of the miracles worked, were done by God, the Father, working through Jesus' FAITH to accomplish his will in the earth. The first thing of note is Jesus was anointed with the highest degree of anointing any human could possess. Scripture says he had it NOT "by measure." He also had the greatest of authority in the earth given to any human.

John 3:34, For he whom God hath SENT speaketh the WORDS of God: **for God giveth NOT the Spirit by MEASURE unto him.**

John 14:10 ...the words that I speak unto you I speak NOT of myself: **but the Father that dwelleth IN me, HE doeth the works.**

Matthew 14:26, And **when the disciples SAW him walking on the sea**, they were troubled, saying, It is a **spirit (spectre [appearance of a person who is dead; a ghost])**; and **they cried out for FEAR.**

NOTE: ... It being now morning, and perhaps might have moon light; and besides, there is always more light upon the water than land; they were able to discern something like a man, walking upon the surface of the sea, but had NOT light enough to distinguish what, or who it was; and, moreover, had no thought of Christ, or expectation of seeing him;

John 6:19, So when they had rowed about **five and twenty or thirty furlongs**, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: **and they were afraid.**

and the appearance of a man walking upon the waters being so unusual, and astonishing, (Source: <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/gill/matthew/14.htm>)

NOTE: That the spirits of the dead might and did appear, was a doctrine held by the greatest and holiest of men that ever existed; and a doctrine which the cavilers (one who find fault without good reason), free-thinkers and bound-thinkers, of different ages, have never been able to disprove.

(Source: <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/clarke/matthew/14.htm>)

Thought 1. After this, Peter James and John would SEE Moses, whose body God buried.

Exodus 34:5-6, So **Moses the servant of the LORD died** there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD. And HE buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Bethpeor: but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day.

Matthew 17:1-4, And after six days **Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John** his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his FACE did SHINE as the sun, and his raiment was WHITE as the light. **And, behold, there appeared unto them MOSES and Elias (Elijah) talking with him.** Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and **one for Moses**, and one for Elias.

Matthew 14:27, **But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be NOT afraid.**

NOTE: Christ's coming to those **storm-tossed** disciples symbolizes the way he has often come to his troubled disciples in all ages, walking to them over life's troubled waters; and, as always, he may pass them by, unless they **cry out** and **call upon him** as did the apostles here. **Be of good cheer...** How grandly have those blessed words echoed down the centuries in men's hearts. Christ's holy religion is one that casts out fear. **Fear NOT! That is the first and last commandment of FAITH.**

(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/eng/bcc/matthew-14.html>)

Matthew 14:28-29, And Peter answered him and said, **Lord, IF (forasmuch as [because]) it BE THOU, BID me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come.** And when **Peter was come down out of the ship, he WALKED on the water, to go to Jesus.**

NOTE: We have no idea what prompted Peter to ask such a question, but his FAITH in Jesus is remarkable. He really responded to Jesus' invitation and got out of the boat. He walked on the water to go to Jesus.

(Source: <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/matthew-14/>)

Thought 1. Remember, God worked the miracle of Jesus walking on water to accomplish his purpose and will in the lives of the people seeing it, and reading about it. So, he leads Jesus to command Peter to come onto the stormy waters and walk on them by FAITH in him and in Jesus. As we see, there have been TWO men to walk on water!

Matthew 14:30, But **when he SAW the WIND boisterous, he was AFRAID; and beginning to SINK, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.**

NOTE: Peter succeeded at first, but then he failed. **He DID actually walk on the sea;** but when **he took his eyes OFF the Saviour** and began to consider (LOOK AT) the difficulties, he began to SINK. What a lesson shines in this. As long as people have RESPECT unto the Lord and behold him in all their ways, they go FORWARD...

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/eng/bcc/matthew-14.html>)

NOTE: But when he SAW the WIND boisterous — Doubtless it became more so than before, making a dreadful noise, and causing the sea to rage horribly: **he was afraid** — His FAITH failed, his courage staggered, and, in the hurry of his thoughts, he forgot that Jesus was at hand, and was seized with a sudden terror. And now the secret power of God, which, while Peter confidently relied on Jesus, had made the sea firm under him, began to be withdrawn, and in proportion as his faith decreased, the water yielded, and he sunk. In this extremity he looked round for Christ, and on the very brink of being swallowed up, cried, **Lord, save me** — Peter, being a fisherman, had been used to the sea, and it appears from John 21:7, was a skilful swimmer. And probably he ventured on the attempt he now made with some secret dependance on his art, which God, for wise reasons, suffered to fail him.

The word **καταποντιζομαι**, here rendered **to sink**, is very expressive, and may intimate that he felt himself sinking with such a weight that **he had NO HOPE of recovering himself, and expected nothing but that he should go directly to the bottom of the sea.**

(Source: <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/benson/matthew/14.htm>)

Thought 1. This is one of the BEST examples of how a person should walk by FAITH, and what NOT to do, that's found in what's called the New testament! It makes very clear the impact FEAR has on us, hindering God, and giving Satan place (permission) in our lives. What happened to Job when he got into FEAR is the best in the Old Testament. Although, some people believe God gave Satan permission to do what happened to him.

Think about it! If Jesus, or Peter, had believed God would give them into Satan's power like what's believed about Job, there is NO way they would be thinking about walking on the sea in a storm! Because, what if God decided to test them by giving them into Satan's power!? But that's NOT his character. Like Peter, Job feared, and what he feared occurred.

Job 3:25, For the thing I greatly FEARED (be afraid) is come upon me.

Hebrews 12:3, For consider (view attentively) him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint (sink into dejection [depression]; to lose courage or spirit) in your MINDS.

Matthew 14:31-33, And **immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him,**

and **said unto him, O thou of LITTLE faith, wherefore didst thou doubt (FEAR, waver in opinion)?** And when they were come into the ship, **the WIND ceased.** Then they that were in the ship came and **WORSHIPPED him, saying, Of a TRUTH thou art the Son of God.**

NOTE: Immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him — Dealing thus mercifully with his servant, in not suffering him to perish as a punishment of his preceding rashness and self-confidence, and his subsequent diffidence and distrust of Christ's power: **And said, O thou of LITTLE faith, wherefore didst thou DOUBT? — Namely, of my PROTECTION, when I was so near? when thou hadst my commission to make the trial, and hadst in part experienced my power in supporting thee thus far on the waves?** The reader must observe, Peter did not doubt that it was Jesus who walked upon the water. He was convinced of that before he left the vessel; yea, and while he was sinking; otherwise he would not have called to him for assistance: but **he was afraid that Jesus could NOT, or would NOT support him against the wind,** which blew more fiercely than before; a doubt most unreasonable, since it was as easy for Christ to support him against the storm, as to keep him up on the water, which Jesus had virtually promised to do in his permission, and which he had actually performed while Peter relied on him. "The people of God, warned by this example, should **beware of presumption** (act of presuming, or BELIEVING upon probable evidence; the act of assuming or taking for granted; BELIEF upon incomplete PROOF) and self-sufficiency, **AND in ALL their actions should take care NOT to be precipitate** (adopted with haste or without due deliberation). Wherever God calls them, they are boldly to go, NOT terrified at the danger or difficulty of the duty; his providence being always able to support and protect them. But he who goes without a call, or proceeds further than he is called; who rushes into difficulties and temptations without any reason, may, by the unhappy issue of his conduct, be made to feel how dangerous a thing it is for a person to go out of his sphere." — Macknight.

(Source: <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/benson/matthew/14.htm>)

Mark 6:51, And he went up unto them into the ship; and the WIND ceased: and they were sore AMAZED in themselves beyond measure, and wondered.

NOTE: They moved quickly from **FEARING the storm to worshipping Jesus.** This was a logical reaction considering the POWER Jesus showed in walking on the water, and the LOVE He showed in taking care of a sinking Peter.

(Source: <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/matthew-14/>)

Thought 1. What comes to mind is what happened in the MINDS of everyone that gave proper THOUGHT to what he did in Egypt when he delivered Israel from bondage! In truth, when people **SEE** and **properly think on** a demonstration of God's **P**ower, **A**uthority, **S**acredness, or **S**ublimeness: (quality of being **SUBLIME**), **HE produces REVERENCE for the person being used by him, with a goal of gaining it for himself.** Remember David killing Goliath? **The acronym for this is PASS.**

Sublime, adj. Awakening or expressing the emotion of AWE, adoration, veneration, heroic resolve, etc.; dignified; grand; solemn; stately; -- said of an IMPRESSIVE object in nature, **of an ACTION,** of a discourse, of a work of art, of a spectacle, etc.; as, sublime scenery; a sublime DEED.

Matthew 14:34-36, And when they were gone OVER, they came into the land of Gennesaret. And when the men of that place had knowledge of him, they sent out into all that country round about, and brought unto him ALL that were diseased; And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as TOUCHED were made perfectly WHOLE.

John 6:21, Then they willingly received him into the ship: and immediately (at ONCE or SOON) the ship was at the land whither they went.