

HE TREADS UPON THE SEA

Matthew 14:22-33

I. Christ graciously *tailors* the stormy sea (vv. 22-24).

II. Christ graciously *treads upon* the stormy sea (vv. 25-27).

III. Christ graciously *triumphs over* the stormy sea (vv. 28-33).

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. Why is prosperity so danger to our souls? How would the feeding of the 5,000 have left the disciples prone to carnal security, pride, and earthliness?
2. What makes this trial on the stormy sea different from the last one we saw in Matthew 8:23ff.? Though it seemed like Jesus had left His disciples to themselves, had He really?
3. How could Jesus walk on the waves? Is there a natural way of explaining this? Does the text encourage us to think of it as a purely natural act? Why, or why not?
4. According to the OT, who alone can tread upon the sea? How does Jesus's act of walking on the water and His statement, "It is I," both reveal His divine identity?
5. How did Peter's response to Christ reveal both belief and unbelief? How does Christ use trials to show us the weakness of our faith and to grow our faith?
6. What is the end result of this miracle? What does it call us to, and what does it teach us about Christ's ultimate purpose in the difficulties He sends our way?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. Have I ever felt deserted by Christ in the midst of trials? Do I feel so now? How is this account intended to encourage me?
2. What does Christ's power over the wind and waves reveal about Him? And how does it teach me to live in the midst of life's difficulties?
3. Why is the path of discipleship full of so much trouble?