

## Lesson D4: Walking on Water

Matthew 8:23-27; 14:22-36; Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32;  
(Mark 6:45-56; John 6:16-21)

### I. **SENT INTO A STORM** (22-24; Ps 135:5-7)

#### A. **Intentional** (22)—He deliberately sent them into the storm.

1. **Immediately**—conveys a sense of purpose and progression
2. **He made them**—it was Jesus' idea/command, that put them in this situation

#### B. **Detailed**—Jesus set the stage for the ideal learning experience.

1. **The Environment** (24; Jn 6:19)—unstable and uncontrollable, rocking the boat
2. **His Absence** (22, 8:23-26)—this time without the reassurance of His physical presence
3. **The Timing** (23)
  - a. **When Evening Came** (John 6:17)—everything is worse at night in the dark
  - b. **In Fourth Watch of the Night** (3-6:00 AM)—He let them struggle for a while

#### C. **Supervised**—They were not left unattended in a dangerous situation.

### II. **ATTENDED BY THE LORD** (25-27)—Jesus was not tuned out.

#### A. Jesus **watched over** them from the mountain

1. **He observed them.** (Mk 6:48)—He saw them “making headway painfully”
2. **He prayed for them.** (23; Lk 22:31-32)—keeping track of them and praying

#### B. Jesus **came to them on the sea.** (Ps 104:3)—The wind and waves are His wind and waves; they come and go at His command.

C. Jesus **answered them when they cried out.** (27, 30; Ps 18:3-6, 16-17; 34:4-6; Lam 3:52-58) God hears the cries of His children and His heart goes out to them.

1. He responded **immediately.**
2. He **spoke to reassure them when they were afraid.** (27)—Jesus is the ultimate messenger of God’s comforting grace.
3. He **reached out and took hold of Peter when he was sinking.** (Joel 2:32/Acts2:21/Rom 10:13)—“Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.”

III. **CALLED TO FAITH** (28-33)—Peter gets out of the boat and walks on the water.

A. **Recognizing Jesus’ Authority** (28; Phil 4:13) “If it’s you, command me to come to you!”

1. **Verifying Identity**—Make sure it’s Jesus; then you may safely obey Him.
2. **Waiting for the Command**—Use God’s power to obey God, not on a personal whim.

B. **Getting Out of the Boat**—*a step of faith*

1. **Personal Commitment**—obeying His command and trusting Him with your life
2. **Deliberate Action** (Jas 2:17-18)—True faith is not passive; it moves toward Jesus and does what He does.

C. **Starting to Sink**—*faltering faith*

1. **Losing Focus**—looking at the problem instead of to Christ; distracted
2. **Self-reliance**—feeling confident enough to take your eyes off Jesus—*not a good idea!*
3. **Fear**—focus on the storm, think of ourselves in relation to the problem without Christ

D. **The Cry of Faith** (30)—“*Lord, Save Me!*” Regardless of my circumstance, He is my Savior.

1. Jesus is **able to save.** (Ps 93:3-4)
2. Jesus is **willing to save.**

IV. **COMPELLED TO WORSHIP** (33)—“worshiped him saying, ‘Truly, you are the Son of God.’”

A. **Demonstration of Divinity**

1. **God alone walks on the water.** (Job 9:8 ) —No OT Prophet walked on water.
2. **“I AM” is with us.** (27; Ex 3:14)—“Don’t be afraid. I am.” God’s Covenant Name.

- B. **The Son of God** (8:22)—They are at least *approaching* the idea of a *divine* Messiah.
- C. **The Antidote to Fear**—Worship focuses on God, a reality greater than the storm.