

(37) Walks on the Water (Mt. 14:22-33; Mk. 6:45-52; Jn. 6:15-21)

1. The Lord's most public miracle was followed by a crucial private miracle.
 - a. The crowds response to the feeding of 5000 is indicated (Jn. 6:14,15).
 - b. The disciples' response is not recorded but was of such a nature that Jesus "immediately" sent them back to the water (Mt. 14:22; Mk. 6:45a).
 - c. With the Twelve safely away, the Lord then dismissed the crowds (Mt. 14:23; Mk. 6:45b).
2. Before scaring His disciples, Jesus bathed this work assignment in prayer (Mt. 14:23; Mk. 6:46).
3. This storm is the second such storm to terrify the disciples ([GM28 Calming the Sea] (Mt. 8:23-27; Mk. 4:35-41; Lk. 8:22-25)). This time though the Lord is not in the boat!
4. Divine Sovereignty prevented them from reaching the other side and ensured this Bible class to administer maximum impact (Mt. 14:24-25; Mk. 6:47-48; Jn. 6:18-19).
5. Harmonizing and sequencing the incident.
 - a. While still on land at 3am Jesus observed the disciples struggling in the middle of the sea (Mk. 6:47-48a).
 - b. Jesus intended to pass by them (Mk. 6:48b). As a guide? As a test?
 - c. The disciples are afraid of ghosts φάντασμα phantasma ^{#5326}_{2x} (Mt. 14:26; Mk. 6:49).
 - d. Jesus exhorts them.
 - 1) Take courage. θαρσεῖτε tharseite 2pl.pres.act.imper. θαρσέω tharseō ^{#2293}_{7x}; *be enheartened, be courageous.*
 - 2) I am. ἐγώ εἰμι egō eimi.
 - a) One of the Gospel of John's great "I AM" statements (Jn. 4:26; 6:20,35,41,48,51; 8:12,18,24,28,58; 9:9; 10:7,9,11,14; 11:25; 13:19; 14:6; 15:1,5; 18:5,6,8) recorded by both Matthew and Mark in this instance.
 - b) The doctrine of "I AM" identifies the Lord (ὁ κύριος ho kurios) Jesus Christ with the LORD God of Israel (יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל) and specifically with the most sacred memorial name of YHWH (Ex. 3:14).
 - 3) Do not be afraid. μὴ φοβεῖσθε mē phobeisthe. Stop fearing. Pres.pass.imper. φοβέω phobeō ^{#5399}_{95x}; *to be afraid.*
 - e. Peter's faith is only recorded by Matthew (Mt. 14:28-31).
 - 1) Lord, since it is you (1st class condition), command me.
 - 2) Jesus commanded and Peter came. Note: eleven others (or more) stayed in the boat!
 - 3) Once on the water, Peter took his eyes off the Lord and his fear returned.
 - 4) You (sing.) of little faith. Why did you (sing.) doubt? What went unstated was You (plur.) of no faith. Why are you (plur.) still in the boat?
 - f. When the Lord stepped into the boat the following things took place.
 - 1) He entered the boat only upon the disciples' willingness to receive Him (Jn. 6:21).
 - 2) The wind immediately stopped (Mt. 13:32; Mk. 6:51).
 - 3) The boat and all occupants were teleported to their destination (Jn. 6:21).
 - 4) The disciples were astonished as a consequence of their hardened hearts (Mk. 6:52).
 - 5) The disciples worshiped God the Son (Mt. 14:32).
6. This lesson was necessary because the Twelve failed to learn from the feeding of the 5000 (Mk. 6:51b-52).
 - a. Had not gained insight. οὐ γὰρ συνήκαν ou gar sunēkan. 3pl.aor.act.ind. συνήμι suniēmi ^{#4920}_{26x}.
 - b. Their heart was hardened. αὐτῶν ἡ καρδία πεπωρωμένη autōn hē kardia pepōrōmenē. Perf.pass.ptc. πωρόω pōroō ^{#4456}_{5x}.
 - c. The danger of a hardened heart was particularly strong at this apprenticeship stage of their training (Mk. 4:41; 6:52; 8:17; Eph. 4:17-18; Heb. 2:1-3; 3:8,10,12,13,15; 4:11).