



*Walks on Water*

Welcome to Jesus Time where we spend time with Jesus in His time and culture.

Did you notice?

After the first long winter of His Ministry then throughout this ever-eventful springtime Jesus has taken His budding Gospel message particularly concerning His leading Disciples & Apostles to a much higher level thusly leading to eventual Spiritual maturity of those under and having His authority.

Also, during this off season- a literal winter of when people had the time to reflect each intellectually and Spiritually upon everything that our Lord Jesus had previously said or done.

Now with the death of the Baptizer coupled with the fact that now Jesus's leading 12 Apostles- yes, even including Judas Iscariot also having the ability to heal those in need by using Jesus's name.

So now the crowds around Jesus exploded to sizes the previous Baptizer could have only dreamt of.

Ok, Christ our Lord has just fed a crowd of 10K+ with nothing but the Faith and provision of one child.

What? Pray tell was the result of all of this including His travels with healings leading up to this moment:

✝ Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

John 6:15NIV

Our Lord excused Himself having slipped away apart from the masses who had intended to force Jesus into declaring Himself King & Christ before His appointed (Jesus) Time of Daniel chapter 9.

That is Why? Jesus deferred at this time but what about His Apostles that He had recalled unto Him?

Notice not the normally large entourage of traveling crowds of Jesus seeking or believing Disciples.

Because Scripture states He only recalled the 12 here to this location. These crowds were remote Jews.

Unsaid here are some Doctrinal issues of Faith of each Law & Grace. In fact, their first intertwining.

Naturally, our Lord knew that many of His other believers including very His own mother now in the care of Mary Magdalene who would have normally traveled with Him- that they would have surely been by now safely inside the crowds traveling to Temple in Jerusalem for Passover.

Get that?

What we as Christians miss here is: It was not yet a Sin to sacrifice an animal for ones Sin in Jerusalem.

In fact; it was still Law for the Jews & Jehovah converts to do so. ( a million people would come to Temple)

As for Jesus and His leading Apostles this is Why? Jesus in private will soon prove and get His Apostles to decide for themselves by their own admission of freewill that Jesus is The Christ. (Divine Messiah)

Meaning twas NOT a Sin for Jesus nor His Apostles not to travel to Jerusalem and make a sacrifice under the Law at this time. Providing that Jesus in the future does finally totally fulfill the Sacrifice for Sin (payment to Holy GOD fulfilling Law & Justice) as the Lamb of GOD on His Apostles behalf. Let that soak in.

This is something as Gentile believers that we do not think about within these passages.

That once Jesus reveals Himself and proves it- first to His leading Apostles & later to all of His Disciples which means His Believing students, us! That they/we are forgiven on His charge on His account.

It then became our Lord's business as too When? He personally settles that Sin debt as in His Believers Sin debt unto His Father. Holy Jehovah GOD. This is Why? Unbelievers do go to Hell/Lake of Fire.

They refuse Messiah Divine King & Christ's payment for their Sin which = By Law Pardon for their Sin.

So, only these 12 as in when Scripture say's here His "Disciples" meaning all those Believers present with Him at this time Jesus will order into the boat for departure were only His 12 Apostles representing the totality of His Disciples present who were there to be ordered into a single boat.

As in they will not be going to Jerusalem and tis not a Sin as long as they believe in Him- Jesus.

Also unsaid in scripture is we can make the deduction that the boat was one of Peter and Andrews?

Or perhaps one of James and John's fathers' boats. Most likely this is how the 12 Apostles had arrived together at this remote location in Tetrarch Phillip's territory safely away from Herod Antipas.

✝ Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Beth-sa'ida, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>46</sup> And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>47</sup> And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. Mark 6: 45-47 RSV

When the crowds depart Jesus did give His Disciples a head start.  
Then He took some time to Pray after dismissing His Apostles to sail away.

Continuing

✝ But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.<sup>25</sup> And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. Matthew 14:24-25 KJV

These Disciples of our Lord were expert fishermen who made their living out upon the Sea of Galilee. Meaning they were well experienced out upon the water and even with all of their combined skill they were struggling to make much headway.

For the record the Sea of Galilee is what we would call a large inland lake about 6 miles across and Scripture said Jesus was now walking out to His Apostles upon the water toward them in the deepest darkest portion of the night. (The Roman Legions divided the 12 hours of 6PM - 6AM into 4 equal watches so 3-6AM)

There is a lesson for us to be learned right here: Jesus deliberately sent out His Disciples before Him into the rough sea obviously meaning that we too may be called to do likewise for the Lord.

As in to do His bidding amongst turbulent times or even opposition but that He will come to us as we struggle to attain His goals when exhausting our own strength and efforts.

Continuing

✝ And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. Matthew 14:26 KJV

A rower typically faces toward the stern of the boat with their back toward the direction they are going. Meaning in the distance they saw someone or something walking toward them upon the water! During Jesus Time the Pharisee's spread the rumor that phantoms call them ghouls or ghosts walked in the night in order to posses any of the living foolish enough to be out and about.

This was intended to scare by tradition of superstition the imposed Roman curfew upon Israel.

However, these fishermen of Galilee were exempt from curfew because of Israel's hot middle eastern sun. Meaning fishing was always best by night. Otherwise, it was thought & taught that only 3 types of people besides those who legally worked at night would be out. 1<sup>st</sup> Thieves or bandits, 2<sup>nd</sup> those in adultery or prostitution and finally 3<sup>rd</sup> those planning or participating in sedition against the Jewish authorities or Rome. I.e. the Zealots. (Zealots were Jewish patriots pledged to remove Rome from Israel by any means necessary including what we would call terrorism. Yes, one of Jesus's original Apostles Simon, not Peter was originally a Zealot)

The point being everyone knew better than to believe those childish spooky rumors of things that go bump in the night, but now out upon the water alone with such stories of demons in the dark very common in Jesus Time-

Now comes a figure walking on the water toward the Apostles stuck in a boat with nowhere to go. Just who would not be irrationally concerned?

✝ But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

Matthew 14:27KJV

No doubt the Apostles thought that Jesus had felt they had reached the other side of the lake in Jewish territory long ago. Out of sight out of mind, but that was not the case.

Struggling against the wind about 3 miles out Jesus came to His own in their hour of need.

Imagine being hopeless, afraid, & trapped with nowhere to go and then hearing the voice of the Lord! Think about it: this applies to everyone in every situation.

Do not be afraid but take comfort and have peace I AM here!

These passages below explain the hope and peace that all in Christ have while those in the world can never comprehend even in the midst of loss, tragedy, or calamity the Peace of Jesus astounds and abounds.

✝ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-7 NIV

Continuing

✝ And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

Matthew 14:28 KJV

Peter in Faith remembering that the Lord had previously bestowed His authority to heal upon himself and the other 11 Apostles, was now each relying and testing the boundaries of Christ's Love by trusting in Him. That the Lord Jesus would also allow Peter to do the impossible.

✝ And he (Jesus) said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

Matthew 14:29 KJV

Sometimes we forget that Peter including his brother Andrew were already established and successful fishing business owners.

Was Peter in fact the oldest and most mature of the 12? (Historians estimate he was Jesus's age around 30 +/-) Christ did make him the leader of His Apostles with our point here being:

Knowing what was just stated above of Peter, already being established and successful by the time he a rational down-to-earth working aged man had met & was being convinced that Jesus was The Christ. So, how many years do you think Peter had spent of his life out upon the Sea of Galilee?

& now Peter had just gained permission by GOD incarnate to get out of his boat to walk on the water.

Jesus will often do this; use someone where they are at of where they are fishing for a living so to say. That Christ our Lord will often ask each and every one of us to "get out of our boat."

This being our comfort zone of where we have grown accustom and routine within our accepted role in a particular place. Then into opposition quite possibly and or ridicule most certainly when Jesus asks us to present His "Way," His Gospel of Grace by Faith unto others working with us upon the same waters.

✝ But when he (Peter walking on the water) saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. Matthew 14:30 KJV

It took great courage with abundant Faith for Peter to trust and get out of his boat then breaking the very physics of nature to supernaturally by and with the Jesus to also walk on the very water that he had literally made his living upon.

But then- Peter the rock, does this sound like the name of someone who can float?

Simon- Peters original name along with his human nature does then resurface so to say.

He noticing the tossing of the waves and thinking about what he was doing actually walking on water, Peter began to fear.

Meaning his thoughts wavered and his heart doubted while he literally took his eyes off of Jesus standing upon the water with him only a short distance away. So, Peter sinks into the drink!

Peter who started off so well in Faith sank into the reality of his situation is now begging for Jesus to save him literally from his own fear. Peters fear of the world and its reality.

Unfortunately, this was an all too human reaction that will yet thrice again resurface for Peter when Jesus is arrested during His Passion week in Jerusalem. Point being if Peter can fear, beware so can we.

Just a small hint here; the lesson we learn from Simon Peter is that nature itself will bend to the authority of GOD whereas in the future Peter will learn that human nature meaning our behavior especially of fear can be even harder to overcome than the GOD given Laws of natural science.

Get it? Our Jehovah GOD and His Christ- Jesus, through His Spirit are in the business of the impossible!

✝ And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? Matthew 14:31 KJV

Like any good parent or teacher by Love Jesus first rescues Peter then He corrects him.

Why? Do you doubt. (meaning take courage in my strength & be ever strong in Faith.)

✝ And when they (Jesus & Peter) were come into the ship, the wind ceased. Matthew 14:32 KJV

So, Jesus had sent out His Apostles 2x2 with His authority & ability to heal.

Later He fed a multitude of 10K plus with the lunch and Faith of one small child.

Then Christ just walked on the water in order to get to his Apostles even allowing Peter to walk on the water with Him.

While finally when Jesus climbed into the boat for a second time Jesus our Christ controlled the weather on the Sea of Galilee. But wait! Our Lord is not done yet.

The Gospel of John adds a detail overlooked:

✝ Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going. (Spontaneous transportation) John 6:21 ESV

✝ Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God. Matthew 14:33 KJV

So, Jesus asks us to get out of the boat and to step into the storms of this life and by walking upon the water He demonstrated that He will help us through our storms and to arrive in Faith at the destination that He desires. Truth is; this is how we learn & grow becoming ever more useful for our Lord & Savior by trusting in Jesus when we do as He says and then He makes the impossible possible. Amen & Amen.