

Miracle Worker

Part Eleven: *water walker*

August 20, 2023

This summer, we are examining some of Jesus' greatest miracles to get to know Him better and learn to trust Him with every part of our lives! Today's focus is on a miracle that shows how Jesus will not always save us from challenges. However, He sees us, cares for us, and ultimately rescues us for His purposes.

After Jesus performs the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000, the disciples are commanded to get into a boat and row across the Sea of Galilee. **John 6:16-17 NLT, Matthew 14:22 NLT**

The disciples reach yet another obstacle in this journey as they follow Jesus. The obstacle comes in the form of a windstorm. **John 6:18-19 NLT, Mark 6:48 NLT**

Despite faithfully following Jesus' commands, the disciples encountered challenges. Jesus' miraculous presence reassured them that He remained in control, symbolized by His walking on water to them amid their earthly toil.

- Jesus is in **command** of His **creation** because He's over creation. **Hebrews 1:5, 10 NLT**

In a remarkable display of authority, Jesus walked on water, symbolizing His dominion over life's challenges. This event highlights His role as a source of solace and guidance, prompting us to trust in Him even when circumstances seem incomprehensible. **John 6:19-21 NLT**

As seen in Matthew (14:28-32 NLT), Peter boldly implores Jesus to command him to walk on water. Jesus agrees and asks him to step out of the boat. He does, and he begins to sink.

- We should be concerned with the **greatness** of our God not the **greatness** of our problems.

In an act of compassion, Jesus rescues Peter and questions his little faith, highlighting the importance of unwavering faith. Doubt is a division of thought. Peter's experience teaches that faith isn't devoid of doubt, but rather the lesson of turning to Jesus amid doubts. Jesus' unwavering support is always present, even when we stumble.

So, Jesus climbs into the boat. As soon as He made it into the boat, the winds died down. **Mark 6:51 NLT**

- Jesus may have us work **fervently** but not in **futility**.
- No **work** is **wasted**.

Their work had not been a waste. It was worth it because they received a touch of divine power and presence. *Like the disciples, have you ever faced challenges even when following Jesus' commands?*

- God will do the **heavy** lifting.

- It's not the **outcome** of the work that counts, but the **obedience** of the worker.

If you are working toward something and it is truly futile, listen for God to give you a new plow or task. Mark adds a significant detail – “their hearts were too hard to take it in.” (Mark 6:52 NLT). This moment prompts us to inspect our own lives. *How often do we fail to perceive Jesus amid our trials?* It is through softened hearts and open eyes that we truly discern His presence. When we acknowledge Him as the Son of God, we find the strength to conquer challenges and walk with unshakable faith.

Application

- **Trusting Jesus in times of challenge:** Just as the disciples faced a fierce storm while following Jesus' command, we too encounter challenges and obstacles in our lives. The story teaches us that even in these moments, we should remember that Jesus sees us, cares for us, and will ultimately rescue us.
- **Maintain your faith amid doubt:** Peter's experience of walking on water and then doubting Jesus serves as a lesson in the interplay between faith and doubt. We all have moments of doubt, but the key is to turn to Jesus amid our doubts.
- **Obey and God will do the heavy lifting:** The disciples' obedience to Jesus' command to get on the boat—even though they struggled against the storm—illustrates the importance of obedience in our lives. Sometimes, our efforts may seem futile, but when we continue to obey and work diligently, God's divine power and presence can transform our efforts into meaningful accomplishments.
- **Keep your eyes on Jesus in trials:** The disciples' challenge of seeing Jesus amid the storm serves as a reminder for us to soften our hearts and open our eyes to perceive Jesus' presence during our trials.