

# In The Beginning Was The Word

## John 6:16-21

### INTRODUCTION: JESUS WALKS ON WATER

This was the time after the Lord had fed the 5 thousand. It was the time when the Lord went up into the mountains away from the crowd to pray, and also because they wanted to crown him as their king. It was also the time that the disciples chose to leave the presence of the Lord and go it on their own.

The incident here picks up where the disciples find themselves on a perilous journey, and in the midst of a great storm at sea. The Lord had sent them away, to get away from the multitudes of people after the feeding of the 5 thousand.

However their faith was certainly not strong, and neither were their sailing skills.

We can all identify ourselves with this passage of scripture, because we can also see ourselves in the very same struggles.

But if it was the Lord who sent them on their way.....then the Lord would have protected them. But they did not see that. Even though they had just witnessed the miracle of the feeding of the 5 thousand people.

When we come to ask ourselves this question: Why was this passage of scripture and many others like it put in the bible we have to remember this verse.

- The bible says that all scripture is given for.....

### 2 Timothy 3:16

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

- **So this is no exception for us.**

### John 6:16-21

<sup>16</sup> ***And when even was now come, his disciples went down unto the sea,***

1. It was getting late and it was now already in the evening
2. The disciples were told by the Lord to go to sea at night to travel to Capernaum.
3. Why travel at night? How would they navigate?
4. Were they masters at navigation? But remember it was the Lord who told the disciples to travel at night?

## **Matthew 14:22-26**

<sup>22</sup> And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.

<sup>23</sup> And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

- **(the Lord was still in the mountains praying when the ship was in the midst of the sea)**

<sup>24</sup> 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.

<sup>26</sup> And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

5. Would you have gone into that ship at night?

<sup>17</sup> **And entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was now dark, and Jesus was not come to them.**

1. They were bound for Capernaum.
2. It was already now dark?
3. Jesus was not with them?
4. This is also a type of walking blind in darkness, with no light to shine your way. A picture of a person with no salvation.

<sup>18</sup> **And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew.**

1. The sea started to get very rough, as the great winds blew?
2. This again is a parallel in our lives when we walk without the Lord in our life, there will be times when the great winds in our lives will blow against us and we will not know what to do.
3. The storms of life are not easily solved without the grace of our Lord.
4. Did the disciples try to go it alone? Were they trying to prove something?

<sup>19</sup> **So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid.**

1. The disciples were not only going to Capernaum, they were doing so under their own *rowing* power. They had to row five and twenty or thirty furlongs (3 or 4 miles), so it was not an easy trip to take.
2. Rowing against the current will always make you weary just as it did with the disciples, and Jesus knew that, and knows that even today.
3. That is why we see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: The Lord is always there even if we think he is not.

4. The disciples although they knew the Lord, they certainly did not expect to see Him in their time of need, yet in the middle of the sea, and even more so in their time of distress.
5. This again is a picture that the Lord reveals to us time and time again in the scriptures, that he is always “very near to us”. Near to those that believe.
6. The faith lesson for us is the same faith lesson for those fearing disciples. They had not expected the Lord to appear at that time. They did not know who it was, and so they were afraid as verse 19 tells us.
7. It was only when the Lord called out to them in verse 20, that their fears were quelled.
8. They did know the Lord; because all the Lord had to say as he called out to them was “**It is I**”. That meant they knew who it was.
9. The Lord calls out to us in His written word, and therefore we can also know Him.

**Isaiah 52:6**

Therefore my people shall know my name: therefore they shall know in that day that I am he that doth speak: behold, **it is I**.

**Matthew 14:27**

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

**Mark 6:50**

For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: **it is I**; be not afraid.

**Luke 24:39**

Behold my hands and my feet, that **it is I** myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

10. Matthew 14:28-31 tells us that when Jesus identified himself to the disciples, Peter asked the Lord, to bid him to come unto him. When the Lord said come.....Peter got out of the boat and started to walk to the Lord on the water. By faith Peter got out of the boat, but by the lack of continued faith he began to sink.

**Matthew 14:28-31**

<sup>28</sup> And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

<sup>29</sup> And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

<sup>30</sup> But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

<sup>31</sup> And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

1. It is interesting as well as important to note that Peter although he was still a way off from the Lord walking on the water.
2. Yet as Peter began to sink the Lord was immediately there to catch him.

3. As the Bible says the Lord immediately stretched for his hand and caught Peter.
4. This is worthy to note that when the Lord does react to our needs or cries, he does so immediately.
5. Salvation is not a delayed reaction, but an immediate one.
6. This does not mean that the Lord reacts to all our requests, because sometimes the Lord may not answer the request the way that we think, or sometimes the Lord will make us wait before he does answer, or maybe the Lord may be silent on certain request we ask for.
7. BUT the decision of the Lord is always immediate when he does answer.

<sup>20</sup> **But he saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid.**

1. "It is I" the Lord said.
2. Straightaway their fears were gone.

<sup>21</sup> **Then they willingly received him into the ship: and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went.**

1. They received him?

**Matthew 14:33** <sup>33</sup> Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

- The reason why they worshipped him was because they realized that Jesus was the Son of God.
  - The wind only ceased when Jesus, carrying Peter by the hand stepped into the boat.
  - The storms in our lives are only quelled, when Jesus steps into our life.
2. In verse 21 of John 6, it is again very interesting and worthy to note, that when Jesus stepped into the boat, they were immediately at the land where they were going.
  3. This is a picture of salvation? The journey to salvation is immediate when we accept the Lord. Peter asked and Jesus said come. When we ask the Lord to save us in the way of salvation it is also immediate. Peter asked the Lord to save him in the physical sense and Jesus accepted his request.
  4. Verse 21 says "they" willingly received him. It means that they all had the same decision based incentive to ask the Lord to come into their midst. The decision was to be one with great reward. Firstly their safety was assured and secondly their journey had been cut short with and immediate landing.
  5. Even so, our salvation in the Lord is not one of having to wait for salvation, but it is given by the Lords grace immediately when we come to Him in repentance.
- Let me say this, for all those who think that the disciples were foolish for going to sea in the evening when it was getting dark are probably correct. Yet it was the Lord who did ask them to go. Would you have resisted the Lord?
  - Yet it took faith anyway to take to the waters at night knowing what may lie ahead in the dark waters, yet they went. Would you have done the same?

## **Matthew 14:29-31**

<sup>29</sup> And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

<sup>30</sup> But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

<sup>31</sup> And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

1. Peter had faith to not only go on the journey he was sent on, but Peter was also the only one with enough faith to step out of the boat, of his comfort zone, and into the raging boisterous sea, because the Lord had said come.
  2. His faith may not have been what it should have been but at least he got out of the boat when none of the other disciples would do so.
- On another occasion in the scriptures we see the faith of the disciples tested yet again. (Mark 4:34-41).

## **Mark 4:34-41**

<sup>34</sup> But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, **he expounded all things to his disciples.**

<sup>35</sup> And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side.

<sup>36</sup> And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.

<sup>37</sup> And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.

<sup>38</sup> And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?

<sup>39</sup> And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

<sup>40</sup> And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? **how is it that ye have no faith?**

<sup>41</sup> And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, **What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?**

1. Again the issue of Faith is raised again by our Lord. Verse 40.
2. And it ends with the disciples asking again who is this man.....Mark 4:41.
3. Rememebr this is also after the feeling of the 5000 miracle which Jesus had just done in theor presence.

4. "Yet they ask in Mark 4 verse 41 what manner of man is this".
5. Did they have enough faith to believe might be the question to ask?

**Now. Lets look at the other scripture in Mark 6:47-49 which is the parallel event of John 6:16-21.**

1. The parallel passage for John 6:16-21 is Mark 6:47-49.
2. In this passage of scripture it is again confirmed that Jesus was on the Land alone while the ship was in the midst of the sea.
3. Yet the Lord saw them.....verse <sup>48</sup> **And he saw them toiling in rowing;**
4. This was in the 4<sup>th</sup> watch, which was between 3am and 6am. (the Roman system of dividing up the evening time periods).

**Mark 6:47-49**

<sup>47</sup> And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land.

<sup>48</sup> **And he saw them toiling in rowing;** for the wind was contrary unto them: and **about the fourth watch of the night** he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.

<sup>49</sup> But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out:

<sup>50</sup> For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.

<sup>51</sup> And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered.

<sup>52</sup> **For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened.**

<sup>53</sup> And when they had passed over, they came into the land of Gennesaret, and drew to the shore.

1. Again the biggest issue that the disciples had was faith.
  2. They began to wonder within themselves.
  3. They had not taken the miracle of the loaves into account.
- They instead had hardened their hearts to the Lord, and were considering **What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him? As we see in (Mark 4:41).**
  - The question I would like to leave for all of us today is this?
  - Do you really have enough Faith to believe the Lord for what he says, or do we still want to try and prove the Lord?

PRAYER.....CLOSE