

We've been learning throughout this study that the real point of the mighty works, wonders, and signs done by Jesus wasn't simply to put on a show. He worked these miracles so that people could **know** who he was, where he had come from, and why they ought to listen to him.

Our last lesson left off with five thousand men, besides women and children, having been miraculously fed by Jesus (Matt 14:13-21).

Immediately he made the disciples get into the _____ and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to _____. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. (14:22-24)

John tells us that they had rowed "about three or four _____" (6:19).

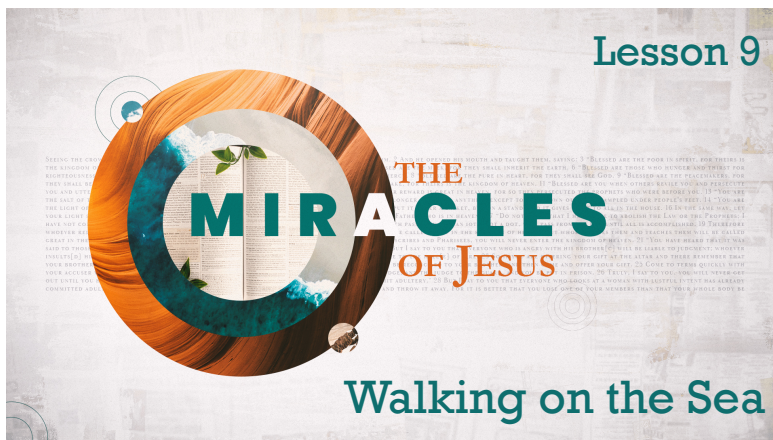
And in the fourth watch of the night (somewhere between __:00 and __:00 AM) he came to them, walking _____ the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a _____!" and they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be _____." (Matt 14:25-27)

Already, this is an incredible wonder! But the miracle especially stands out because of what happens next...

And Peter answered him, "Lord, _____ it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and _____ on the water and came to Jesus. But when he _____ the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, _____ me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the _____ of _____." (14:28-33)

We've heard a wide variety of reactions to Jesus' miracles. "A new teaching with authority!" (Mark 2:27). "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord" (Luke 5:8). "A great prophet has arisen among us!" (Luke 7:16). "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" (Mark 4:41) "Never was anything like this seen in Israel" (Matt 9:33). "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" (John 6:14). But the reaction to this miracle is something new and very special.

What does this wonder show us about Jesus' authority and heart? **Let's talk about it...**



For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ Let's open our Bibles back to **Matthew 14** and notice **verse 22**. Whose idea was it for the disciples to travel across the sea in a boat that day?
- ▶ Where was Jesus and what was he doing?
- ▶ Notice the detail Mark provides in **Mark 6:48**. Why would Jesus ever intend "to pass by them"? **Exodus 33-34** (especially **33:17-23** and **34:4-8**) could be very interesting to dig into and think carefully through here...
- ▶ Instead, what do the disciples think is happening in **Matthew 14:26**?
- ▶ In your own words, what is Jesus saying in **Matthew 14:27**?
- ▶ What does **Matthew 14:28-29** show us about Peter? What does it reveal to us about Jesus' power and authority?
- ▶ How did Peter get himself in trouble and what can we learn from the way his trouble is described in **Matthew 14:30**?
- ▶ What does this wonder show us about Jesus' heart?
- ▶ And what about **Matthew 14:33**? How is this a turning point in what the disciples believe?