

Jesus Walks on Water

Matthew 14v22-36 ²² Then Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people away. ²³ After sending the people away, he went up a hill by himself to pray. When evening came, Jesus was there alone; ²⁴ and by this time the boat was far out in the lake, tossed about by the waves, because the wind was blowing against it. ²⁵ Between three and six o'clock in the morning Jesus came to the disciples, walking on the water. ²⁶ When they saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. "It's a ghost!" they said, and screamed with fear. ²⁷ Jesus spoke to them at once. "Courage!" he said. "It is I. Don't be afraid!" ²⁸ Then Peter spoke up. "Lord, if it is really you, order me to come out on the water to you." ²⁹ "Come!" answered Jesus. So Peter got out of the boat and started walking on the water to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he was afraid and started to sink down in the water. "Save me, Lord!" he cried. ³¹ At once Jesus reached out and grabbed hold of him and said, "What little faith you have! Why did you doubt?" ³² They both got into the boat, and the wind died down. ³³ Then the disciples in the boat worshiped Jesus. "Truly you are the Son of God!" they exclaimed. ³⁴ They crossed the lake and came to land at Gennesaret, ³⁵ where the people recognized Jesus. So they sent for the sick people in all the surrounding country and brought them to Jesus. ³⁶ They begged him to let the sick at least touch the edge of his cloak; and all who touched it were made well

Also see Mark 6:45-56; John 6:16-24

I love comedy. I love laughing at other people's jokes, and I think it's good to be able to laugh at yourself sometimes. Some Christians don't like seeing religious jokes, but I enjoy reading them on birthday cards etc. I personally don't think Jesus would be offended by them. I saw a couple of cartoons recently which made me smile, that relate to the passage we are going to look at. The first was at the feeding of the 5000 where a boy is offering fish and loaves on a wooden platter to Jesus, and Jesus is saying "No. Mine was the herb crusted cod with a rocket and parmesan salad". The other one was of the disciples talking to Jesus from the boat whilst he is stood on the sea. "Why are you walking on water?" they ask, and Jesus replies "I've just had a large lunch, and I didn't want to swim out here on a full stomach".

"Why are you walking on water?" It is a good question. Have you ever thought **why** did Jesus walk on water? Every other miracle he did seemed to have a purpose. Some-one got healed, saved from a storm, miraculously fed, or even got some quality wine at a wedding? So we are going to look at this miracle today and ask 4 questions. Why did Jesus walk on water? Why did Peter then walk on water? Why did Peter sink? And can we walk on water?

But before we do that, I want to look at the work-outs that Jesus did regularly, which I think are important to understanding the context of this miracle.

Spiritual Exercise

First thing to say is that Jesus regularly went to the gym. A gym called 'Eremos' in Greek. It is not one for a physical workout with rowing machines etc but it is where he worked out his spiritual muscles. It is where he got the spiritual strength and insight to say what he said, and do what he did including the miracles. It is where he tapped into the power of God. Our bibles often translate eremos as wilderness, as in 'Jesus retreated to the wilderness', but it has a number of other possible translations including 'place of isolation', 'desolate place', 'place of solitude' etc. Straight after his baptism Jesus went there for 40 days and fasted there. The gospels tell us that God's spirit took him to the desert for the sole purpose of being tempted by the devil, and it was not until he had fasted for 40 days that the encounter happened. This is not because he was picked on when he was at his weakest. He may have been feeling physically weak and hungry, but he was at his strongest spiritually, and he needed to be strong in the spirit, to take on this spiritual battle. 40 days workout in the gym, then he took on the tempter and beat him down. It was a great show of his strength to the enemy. But this was no-one off visit to the gym, he was back every day to spend time alone with his Father God, to keep himself spiritually fit. It is no different for us. On the day before walking on water through a typical Lake Galilee storm, there was another storm happening. This one though was in his head because he had just received some terrible news, that had a huge impact on him.

John is dead

It took a while for the news to get to Jesus. John the Baptist is dead, beheaded by Herod. This was difficult news for Jesus, and huge implications for him. He needed headspace, he wanted to escape to morn, and to be alone with his Father. The death of John had huge implications for Jesus and he wanted his Eremos, his place of solitude. Sort his head out. He got into a boat, made his way to a different part of the lake where he could walk up into his isolated place. But the crowds desperate for more of Jesus worked out where he was going, and raced along the shoreline and got there before him. Despite his grief, he did not get angry with the crowds but was filled with compassion for them, he taught them til late in this remote place, and this is where they all got hungry and Jesus fed them 5000 men plus women and children, from a boys lunch-pack of bread and small fishes. John's gospel tells us that they were so impacted by the feeding miracle that the crowd wanted to take him by force and make him a king. After all this, how do you think Jesus is feeling. Physically. Mentally and spiritually drained, and now even more desperate for a spiritual workout with his Father. A teacher controlled the duration of any learning situation, so when Jesus scattered the people, despite their high emotions they respected this. Jesus sent his disciples away too. He loved his disciples, but right now he just wants to get rid of them for a bit! Come on lads, take the hint, pack yer bags, give me some space. They were not keen to leave him alone but out of obedience did what he said.

We pick up our story in verse 22 of Matthew 14.

²² Then Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people away. ²³ After sending the people away, he went up a hill by himself to pray. When evening came, Jesus was there alone; ²⁴ and by this time the boat was far out in the lake, tossed about by the waves, because the wind was blowing against it.

Afraid of the Sea

Lake Galilee is big, 15m long by 8m wide. It was prone to sudden storms. The fishing boats was fitted with oars, as sails would be counter-productive in a storm. Jesus made them go, probably knowing that they would be later caught in a storm. The disciples may have been at least half way across the lake by the time the weather turned bad. When it came it was sudden and violent, tossing the boat around, and probably making landlubbers like Matthew and Judas throw up over the side.

Apart from the fishermen, the disciples didn't like being on the water. They feared it. If Peter could swim, he may have been the only disciple that could. Most Jews avoided deep water, because according to Old Testament tradition, it was a place associated with evil powers, which were personified visually as a great sea monster called Rahab. The rabbis theology allowed for both a fiery hell and a watery hell, with Rahab and demons all living in this watery hell of chaos. No wonder they were frightened.

In time of invasion, turmoil and chaos in Jewish history the people were reminded by the psalmist and the prophets of how God and God alone had power over this chaos, waves and storms. In Psalm 89 v8-10. **“O God who is there like you, your power and your faithfulness is all about you. You rule the raging of the sea. When its waves stir you still them. You crushed Rahab like a carcass . You scattered your enemies by your mighty arm”.**

This is an image of God walking over the water and crushing the sea demon. Moses, Joshua, Elisha and Elijah all had done water miracles, but only God alone rules the waves and walks on the water. When Jesus calmed the storm his command translated as “Be still”, was more like ‘Be Muzzled’ as if he is putting a muzzle on the hidden sea monster Rahab! That was the imagery. The disciples cry ‘Who is this that even the wind and the waves obey him?’ There is only one possible answer, but it was just too hard for them at that point to comprehend and say. He was demonstrating power that God, and God alone had.

Why did Jesus walk on water?

So why **did** Jesus walk on water? Last time they faced the storm on the lake, Jesus was with them in the boat. This time they are without Him when the storm descends. Jesus is training up his disciples by degrees

to live by faith and not by their own senses. When Jesus had calmed the storm, Jesus is systematically revealing his true nature to his disciples.

In Marks account, there is an interesting addition (Mk 6v49) “He came to them walking on the water. He was going to pass by them by”. Why would he take the trouble on a stormy night to reach his disciples and then pass them by without even saying hello!

It is more subtle than muzzling a storm, but it still ties into a number of Old Testament passages where God reveals himself in ‘passing by’ the Jewish people or their prophets. For example in Exodus (Ex 33 v18-19) – **Moses requested of God “Please let me see the dazzling light of your presence’. The Lord answered “I will make all my splendour pass before you, and in your presence I will pronounce my sacred name I AM (Yahweh).”**

So Jesus acts as if he is passing by the boat. At this point, Jesus is spiritually pumped up, he may be physically exhausted but he has spent the night in the presence of the Father downloading the Spirit, until he hears his Fathers voices, to walk out on the lake. To get to the middle of the lake he has to walk about 4 miles, and it is not on flat sea, the waves at times are mounds to climb. Without that prolonged prayer time, the time in the gym, and I can’t see Jesus doing this. What an astonishing thing to do. The idea and the power to do it can only have come from God.

At this point, the disciples have had a long day, some terrified by the sea, struggling against strong winds, and must have been emotionally and physically drained, probably in the boat for 8 hours struggling with their oars. They are somewhere in the middle. Then to cap it all, they see an image of some shape or some-one moving across the water. In their minds, they see a ghost coming up out of this chaotic watery hell. Belief in ghosts was common even though it contradicted some of their teaching. They think they are doomed, they are absolutely terrified, and they even screamed like girlies.

So Jesus, having done this prophetic gesture of passing them by, then turns to the disciples, close enough now for them to hear him over the winds and waves. And what he says, literally in the Greek is this – ‘Take heart, I AM, have no fear’. Just as God passes by Moses and declares his name I AM. Jesus is doing similar. What he is doing on the water is part of this systematic revelation to his disciples of who is he. It is far too much for them to take in, in one lesson!

Jesus walked on water to demonstrate that he was God, who has power over all creation. The sea and everything in it is under his feet. How he did it, we don’t know, perhaps he suspended his own gravitational pull for a while, or solidified water under him. It doesn’t matter how, it just matters that he did. I once watched a youtube video of illusionist Kris Angel doing the miracle of walking on water as he walked right across the surface of a busy swimming pool. I was amazed by it, and wondered for months how he did it, then I saw another video which revealed the secret with Perspex platforms just below the surface and actors feigning surprise etc. Of course it was just a clever illusion.

Jesus needed no illusions, he could do the miracle not just on a calm pool, but on a stormy sea, why because he had spent all night in the presence of his Father, being empowered again in his Spirit having given out all day. If you read on to Matthew 34-36, you see they arrive safely on the other side where all the sick people in the surrounding area were brought to Jesus and he healed them. When Jesus healed he didn’t spend ages praying over any individual but he said things like ‘get up and walk; or ‘be healed’ and they were. In this passage people were just touching his cloak with his permission and being healed. How could he do this? Because he had been to the Eremos gym, all night, being strengthened by God in a place of isolation. His big spiritual workout had equipped him for the day ahead.

Why did Peter walk on water?

Their Education: Rabbis all had disciples, but a much better word for it is apprentices. The Jewish boys had an education system that was all based around their old testament scriptures. From 6-10 years old they went to the *House of the Book* and they learnt off by heart the first five books of the bible, the Pentateuch. You might think how one earth can small children memorise such long lists of sentences like that. By repetition.

Say you have a little girl who loves the Walt Disney film Frozen, what will she do. Watch it again and again and again, and eventually knows every word in all the songs.

Those that did well, could then carry on to the *House of Learning* for another 4 years, from 10-14 and they would learn and memorise the rest of their scriptures what we call the Old Testament. That was it. That was their education, and it laid out within their Jewish history and roots. They did not have any trigonometry, geography, metalwork, surf-board science, computing or media studies. Just the Old Testament. At this point most of these students had maxed out, and had no more capacity.

The Rabbis would interview and quiz the students and look for the very best of the best which they would apprentice for a few years, as their disciples. This was the ultimate accolade in education to be chosen as a disciple. Every Rabbi chose his disciples, the rest of the kids were rejected and had to go back to their families and be part of the family business. Peter, Andrew, James and John, were all rejected and worked in their family fishing business.

So for the lucky few they would spend the rest of their teenage years as a disciple, bonded to the teaching of a Rabbi, with the aim of one day becoming a Rabbi, a teacher of the law, themselves. The purpose was to be with the Rabbi, become like the Rabbi, and do what the Rabbi did. That was what disciples did.

Our Education: And it is no different for us, Jesus wants us to be with him. John 15 talks about Jesus being the vine, and us abiding with him in the vine. As you did this, the aim is to become more like Jesus, be transformed into his image. We observe him in the scriptures and through others, and we imitate him. Jesus describes disciples as being yoked to him, like two cattle pulling a plough (Matthew 11:28-30), where the inexperienced cow is yoked to an experienced one who shows him what to do. We get to learn from him and alongside him. But Jesus insists that it is not a heavy load, and his burden is light, but what we can achieve when we yoke ourselves to Jesus, and follow him can be amazing.

Peters thought: So the disciples are exhausted, frightened, and stressed, and their suspected ghost reveals himself as Jesus, their Rabbi. Whilst the other disciples are trying to process this incredible happening. Peter is known sometimes as the Apostle of hope, because his character often combines doubt and presumption. Here is a typical moment of this, though he is still unsure, he has this thought.

V28a. Then Peter spoke up – ‘Lord if it is really you, order me to come out on the water to you’.

If you are my Rabbi, then part of my discipleship is to do the things that you do. In which case I should be able to walk on the sea too! So he goes for it. He is willing to attempt something that none of the great prophets of old had ever done. He is about to get out of the boat, and walk through the storm, but only if it is the will of his Master.

V28b. “Come” answered Jesus. So Peter got out of the boat, and started walking on the water to Jesus.

It's such a simple command. **Come.** It is an invite to an exciting life with Jesus. He says it to each of us. Come. Let's do this thing.

Peter gets what it is to be a disciple of Jesus. Spend time with him, become like him, and do what he did. Heal the sick, cast out demons and even walk on water. Despite the fright and the danger, he is willing to leave the safety of the ship and thrust himself into the stormy waves. The other disciples are sitting tight! When the Pharisees demanded a miracle from Jesus they were trying to tempt him so he refused. When Peter wanted the miracle of walking on water himself if was out of faith in Jesus, to be more like him, to do the things he did, and Jesus granted this outrageous request. Peter understood what it was to be a disciple. He got it.

Jesus declares to us as his disciples too – you can do the things that I do and even greater things. Not straight away, but with practice and repetition you will build up the experience you learn how in your human weaknesses how to work out in your own spiritual gym, to be able to do incredible things for Jesus. It takes time, we do not become like Jesus overnight. If you are currently a couch potato, you can probably still run a

marathon, but not tomorrow, or next week, or next month, but possibly next year, if you do the right exercise regime and build yourself up gradually.

So Peter got out of the boat, and started walking on water. It must have felt strange to climb out of the boat and perhaps find the sea feeling solid beneath him. It's a wonderful scene. What Jesus was doing, Peter was now doing. There are two walking on water. One by the power of God in him, and one by the power of faith. Having faith, trusting God, will make all of us more Christ-like.

Why did Peter Sink.

v30a But when he noticed the strong wind, he was afraid and started to sink down in the water.

Peter had seen the waves and his faith was just strong enough to believe that Jesus could make him walk on the sea, but he had not taken the wind into his calculations. Perhaps his first couple of steps went well and were exhilarating, then a strong gust of wind that he had not reckoned on before stepping out, threatened to throw him over. If he had considered the wind when he considered the waves, he may have had the faith to deal with them together. But the unexpected caused his courage to fail, and he began to fear.

Following Jesus was not promised to be easy, because as we work out in our Eremos, our times of quiet, bible study, prayer and worship, as we seek to become more like Jesus and do the things he did, we find that we come up against every type of distraction and opposition, some are quite unexpected. We have what Paul describes as the world, the flesh, and the devil, to contend with:-

- Expectations of others, and our social norms saying don't do it.
- Our old habits, and weaknesses coming back to drag us away.
- Evil spiritual forces which seek to bring us down in subtle and drastic ways.

These are like, the sea monsters of chaos, and the storms of life. The safest place in life, whatever the storm is with Jesus.

But as we step out in faith to do something for God which is beyond our natural capability or previous experience we will always find some fear and doubt mixed in with our courage and belief. I love the words to Jesus from the Father whose son was deaf and dumb – “ I do believe – help my unbelief”. It sums me up nicely. At first Peter was brave but then his heart failed him. We can enter a trial with confidence, but the longer it goes on for, the harder it is to stay focussed and positive.

v31a “Save me, Lord!” he cried. ³¹ At once Jesus reached out and grabbed hold of him.

The Rescue: The effect of his fear, meant he began to sink. While faith was high, so was his position on the water. When his faith dropped so did he. He may well have been a good swimmer, when perhaps the others were not, but he could not rely on his own skills in this situation, it was only the outstretched arm of Jesus that would be his security in the storm. With eyes on the storm and not Jesus, he was allowed enough time to start sinking and cry out 'Lord save me', before he was rescued. Jesus was never going to let the man of faith drown, but perhaps allowing him to sink a bit, gave Peter a measure of his limited faith, and how he still had more to learn. Though we may start to sink in the storm, a man and woman is not drowned until they end up in Hell. Up until then, there is always a chance of rescue.

v31b Then Jesus said “What little faith you have! Why did you doubt?”

The Reprimand: Peter started so well then he is distracted from Jesus and his faith falters. “What little faith you have! Why did you doubt?” says Jesus to Peter. He reminds Peter that whilst he has faith, he has only a little faith, and he should trust him more.

It is the business of faith to resolve our doubts and overcome our fears. We can never be free of our doubts completely, but the more we believe the less we doubt, and our belief in the power of Jesus comes through our experience of stepping out the boat for him and seeing how we get on.

We can't believe more by forcing ourselves to believe, can we? We believe what we believe? In the same way we can't grow our faith by telling ourselves to have more faith? What we can do though, is to take God on his word, and take whatever opportunities we get to step out and trust him. Pray for such opportunities.

Remember the first time you prayed out loud, the first time you shared your faith in a group, the first time you prayed for some-one to be healed. We gave it a go, but we were still full of self-doubt.

The Rest: None of the other disciples said 'Let me have a go next!'. They were keeping quiet, but at the same time learning the lesson about the limitations of their own faith. No-one else stepped out the boat. Peter though had stepped in the right direction. He kept doing the same, stepping out in faith, and make mistakes, letting fear overcome him, like outside the Palace of Caiaphas when he denied knowing Jesus. But again, he was the only one following Jesus. He failed but he had stepped in the right direction.

As we step into the storm trusting Jesus, we build our faith, as we lose out to our fears but grab hold of Jesus go again, then we build our faith more. Peter, became the most widely known of and popular of Jesus' early followers, known for his great faith. How come? He wasn't afraid to step even if at times he failed.

Can we walk on water?

Will we ever physically walk on water like Peter did – very unlikely, but never say never. Will we do equally miraculous things. Why not? If we go for it, if we want it, if we make ourselves a 24-7 disciple of Jesus, and become more and more like him every day, then why not? It is possible because when we have the Holy Spirit in us then our whole frame of reference changes, what was once rare or never seen, now becomes part of what we have experienced. What seemed impossible now seems possible even expected. Jesus changes everything, by sending us 'one like him'. That is how he describes the Holy Spirit.

I love being with people, and sometimes crave attention, but I have to learn the lesson from Jesus that I need the quiet place. The Eremos, where I can be comfortable with God and God alone, and build up my spiritual muscles. Jesus despite the storm, and with good reason to leave, he continued long in prayer. In addition to our daily efforts, we should try and find some time in our year where we cut ourselves off from other distractions and give ourselves over to some longer periods of prayer and worship. We all find it difficult. For me, I booked in for a weekend of 72 hour non-stop worship, and did as much of it as I could. I have also booked myself in this years for 2 days of seeking God in quiet at the wonderful spiritual retreat centre Ffald-y-Brenin. I have to be very intentional about it, because in my normal routine of life, I won't find the time. If I want to see great things happening for God, then I need to invest time in being with God, whether that be in solitude, or in corporate worship.

We work out, then we step out.

Jesus was up the hill alone during a long stormy night, knowing that the disciples would be struggling on the lake. He had sent them off in the calm, knowing they would encounter a storm, and was prepared for them to face it, because he knew that they would meet him in the storm and learn from their experience. How often do we moan when we face the storms of life. I do not believe that our storms are invented by God as I think the world is very good at doing that for us. However, Jesus says we should expect storms, and perhaps at times we are allowed into them so that Jesus can reveal more of himself to us in that storm. The boat was buffeted from all directions making it much harder for the disciples to complete their task that Jesus gave them to cross the lake. We have a job to do for Jesus and we may get troubles that slow us down, and knock us of course for a while, but they must not distract us from our purposes in Jesus. We must keep going, push through, and press forward.

The disciples feared the storm. They feared the apparition so much, they screamed. But Jesus says it is okay in the storm, you have nothing to fear, because even though you may not see me, I am with you, I won't let you perish, until your true time is up. Even though our storms may be loud and fierce they are nothing to be fearful of when you have the Spirit of Jesus living in you. He raises us up through our faith in him, so like Peter we are in the storm, but the world is under our feet, it can not overwhelm us, and it can not separate us from his love. When our souls are pressing after Gods, like Peter's was, then he has his arm outstretched to us. His spirit reaches out to our Spirit, and it his strength in us that allows us to push closer to him despite the waves.

Like Peter we should be keen to step out the both, but only when Jesus has called us to do so. He would not make a move without first having his Masters permission. We shouldn't be fooled into thinking that we can

take on anything we wish because God will support whatever we choose. We need to seek first what is his heart, what are the things he wants us to do with our lives, what are his plans and purposes for us in any situation. When we seek his will first, then we can step out of the boat.

How do we know if we step out for Jesus we will be successful. We don't know. That's the point. That's why it takes faith. Sometimes we will succeed, and sometimes we won't, but even then he won't let us drown. But the more we step out, the more our faith will grow.

Faith loves to deal in great things, in marvellous and impossible adventures, with projects beyond our human power. We should not be just asking God for what we can do by our own strength, we should be praying for those things that are beyond us, beyond our shores. Pray for the impossible and step into it.

Faith is a boat purpose built for the deep seas, for going out in the storms.

The storm is calmed

³² They both got into the boat, and the wind died down. ³³ Then the disciples in the boat worshiped Jesus. "Truly you are the Son of God!" they exclaimed.

Once Jesus got into the boat, immediately the storm ceased. It had done its work. When Jesus comes into our souls, into our inner world, he commands peace over the storms inside of us. He is the great calm, he is the peace beyond all understanding, even in the raging storm.

The disciples had heard previously heard demons declare Jesus as the Son of God, and had no doubt this morning pre-storm they would have been discussing on the boat the great miraculous feeding of 5000 and then crowds desire to make Jesus their Messianic King. Now Jesus demonstrates a power over the sea that is the territory of God and God alone. In the storm that he calmed they asked the question but did not have the faith then to declare it 'Who is this man, that even the wind and waves obey him?'. Now for the first time from human lips they declare 'For sure, you are the Son of God', and they worship him. Fear and doubt is overcome by the presence of God, and the ability to worship him.

This Easter I went with a group to Macedonia. Beforehand we had been praying for several months for the country, and he started developing a prayer in us, an impossible prayer. The prayer was for us to plant a Christian conference for the poorest of churches in that country, and see people get saved, and get miraculously healed of many illnesses, even though we spoke none of their language. We had no experience of putting on conferences and did not speak the language. We believed that God had worked this prayer into us, so we presumed that he would answer it. But of course it was mixed with doubt. We could not know for sure he would, but we hoped for it, and we called the conference 'Nova Nadezh', which means New Hope. We knew either we would horrendously fall flat on our faces, or we would experience God in a way we had never seen before and witness incredible miracles. We were prepared to give it a go whatever, to step out faith and risk failure. It could have gone either way, but we wanted to step out the boat for Jesus, risk sinking, and see what happened. Our **prayers** were answered. We came back having seen miracle after miracle, with many saved and healed. It was a great feeling.

Yet often though we are full of the joy of God, do we get robbed of it, because some trivial matter in our life has quickly blown up out of proportion. I returned to England on a complete high for 10 days buzzing with testimony of the incredible power there is in the name of Jesus. Then there was a small incident at an event I was at, and in my mind this little squall seemed to take on a life of its own, and almost overnight I became deeply unsettled, and felt that no-one cared for me, not even my friends that I had been abroad with. I felt sad and uneasy. My friends said it was a spiritual attack, but I didn't know if I agreed and certainly didn't know what to do about it. What I did know was that I had no peace, and felt very down. After walking on water in Macedonia, I was sinking. I was in my own storm that I felt I couldn't get out of by myself.

Then one weekend, when I was home alone, I decided to do something about it, and on my computer, I played a video mix that I have compiled of 70 worship songs that have at some time really moved me in the Spirit. I got before God, alone, and sung for 2 hours at the top of my voice, and I am the first to admit I don't have a great voice, but it was worship from my heart. It was an intentional focus back on Jesus, with my

mind, body, voice, soul and spirit. At the end of 2 hours of solid passionate singing, I stopped, and found the storm had completely gone. I felt fine. By worshipping God in the storm I had **sung** my way out of it. Is it any wonder when Jesus stepped into the boat after walking on water, and the storm stopped, that all the disciples could do in that moment was to worship Him.

We should not just thank God and praise Him when things are going well, we need to worship our way through a storm, trusting he will see us safely through.

Conclusion

We work out, then step out.

Work out in the spiritual gym of Gods presence, and then step out of the boat into the storms of life seeking to do the things that he did. Jesus' own words to his disciples – 'You will do greater things than me'. Walking on water is fun, in the physical, but in the metaphorical sense now when we say she can 'walk on water' we mean she can do pretty much anything. Knowing that, it is worth the risk, and that with and through Jesus all things are possible. If you believe it is what Jesus wants of you, then take the risk. It might just come off.

Others might say to you **No Way – it can't be done. We say Yah-weh, it can !** Because we are not alone. The Spirit of God, Yahweh is with us. The Holy Spirit **puts the super into our natural. He encourages our courage, he emboldens out bold.**

Will the waves of life sometimes rise up around us and give us that sinking feeling – Yes.

Will the storms of life sometimes blow us of course – Yes.

Will there be times where in our humanity we let fear come over us and take our eyes of Jesus – Yes

Will he always be there, to recover us, save us, hug us, & put us back on the right path – Yes, Yes & Yes.

So work out. Find your Eremos, your place of solitude on a regular basis, and build up your spiritual muscles. Then step out. Trust Jesus and marvel in the impossible as you exercise your faith.

Your faith is a boat purpose built for the deep seas, for going out in the storms.

Work Out & Step out. He is with us always.

Thankyou Jesus. Amen