

Sermon Series: Book of John

Sermon Title: Walking to the Disciples on the Water

Scripture reading: John 6:16-21

Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church

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How many of you love walking?

I love walking. I love to go for walks in the mountains and in the city, especially this time of the year...when the morning and evening air is cooler.

Well, when was the last time you walked 3-4 miles (4-6Km)? When was the last time you walked 4-6km on water? Anyone?

Today, we come to our 5th sign or miracle that Jesus performs in the book of John; the walking on the water.

Why is it sandwiched right in the middle of the feeding of the 5000 and Jesus' discourse about bread?

What is the significance of the walking on the water?

Let's pray and ask God for help.

Clearly and obviously, we have to first look at the:

1. THE POWER OF JESUS

Let's read the story again and make sure we see just exactly what is happening here. We are meant to see glory and power here. We are meant to marvel and believe in him.

16 When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, **17** got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. **18** The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. **19** When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened. **20** But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." **21** Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

What did he do?

He walked 3-4 miles on water! Now, you've read so many times about the walking on the water that you don't let that sink in enough.

He walked a long way on the water.

I got on Google Maps this week and measured the Sea of Galilee just to see how far he walked and then

measured how far that would be to somewhere we are familiar with around here.

That's a walk from Central Ferry Pier to Kai Tak Cruise terminal...on the water.

In the dark. No electricity.

Not on smooth as glass..water, but on rough water.

Even if it was even remotely possible for someone to walk on water...it would at least have to be smooth.

He walked 3-4 miles on waves.

In a strong wind.

That's what he did.

It's impossible for a human being to do.

How can he do this?

Who is he?

Jesus only speaks one sentence in this passage, but oh what a powerful sentence it is.

20 But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid."

Now you should know that when Jesus says this that there are 2 layers in what he says.

In one layer, he is saying simply as we would say, "It's me guys." But in another layer he is using a phrase that John wants us to catch.

Jesus says literally, 'I am..I am'. Ego Eimi. Ego means, "I am" and Eimi also means, "I am".

Why is this significant?

We need to turn to **Exodus 3**.

13 Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" **14** God said to Moses, "**I am who I am.**" And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: '**I am** has sent me to you.'" **15** God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.

How can he walk on water? He is God.
He created water.

We are meant to see **the power of Jesus** in the walking on the water.

But we also want to make the connection with the bread and the feeding of the 5000 that John is making here.

We saw last week and we see again this week:

2. THE PICTURE OF THE EXODUS

Remember I told you last week that Jesus is feeding the multitude with bread out in the desolate place, the

wilderness, as God fed the Jewish people with manna. He is the great provider! And he is also the one who rescues.

Do you remember when the children of Israel left Egypt that Pharaoh chased them with his army and they came to the Red Sea. What happened? God rescued them by parting the Red Sea and they all walked across and safely reached the other side. Here Jesus comes to the rescue of his disciples, who are in darkness and a strong wind...straining at the oars...and Jesus walks on the water to them and brings them safely to the other side.

John is making these connections for us so that we will see the power and glory of Jesus. However, this miracle is for the disciples and there's love happening here. He could have walked along the shore. But he came to them. It's not just the *power* of Jesus that they need but also his presence.

3. THE PRESENCE OF JESUS

What's Jesus communicating to the disciples (and us) through the feeding of the 5000 and the walking on the water, because they go together.

I didn't really mention it last week, but do you remember the disciples picked up 12 baskets full of broken bread pieces?

How many disciples were there?

12!

They are going to need to know in the future that God will take care of them. He will supply all of their needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

They are also going to need the assurance of his presence with them as they carry the good news around the world.

It's going to get dark.

It's going to be rough.

There is going to be some straining at the oars.

There will be some storms.

He will be with them.

"Behold, I am with you always, till the end of the age."

Matthew 28:20

In Jewish thought, the sea symbolized chaos and disorder, yet in the midst of that God promises his presence.

Isaiah 43:2

When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.

What are we to take away for our own lives from the walking on the water?

Is there a picture of the gospel here?

Just like the disciples, many are in darkness.

We are lost and striving to reach a destination that they can't reach.

Our lives are a sea of chaotic disorder.

We live in fear. Fear of failure, fear of death.

Is there any hope?

Jesus comes to us where we are... out of love and compassion and says these words, "It is I. Do not be afraid."

And in gladness we take him into the boat of our lives and he will get us safely to the other side.

16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. **18** Whoever

believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. **19** And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.

What fears do you have at the moment?
What are you afraid of?

Are you struggling in darkness?
Is your life in disorder and chaos?

Are things rough for you right now?

Trust in Jesus. No matter what it is you are going through.

He promises His power and His presence to those who believe in him.

These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that by believing you may have life in his name.