

An aerial photograph of a rocky coastline. The water is exceptionally clear, revealing a dense field of dark, smooth rocks of various sizes scattered across the seabed. The water's surface is textured with gentle ripples and reflects the light, creating a shimmering effect. The horizon line is visible in the upper third of the frame, where the water meets a pale, overcast sky.

IF YOU WANT TO WALK ON WATER

---

*You've got to get out of the boat*

## MATTHEW 14:12 22-33

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat 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 pray. 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. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save 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 Son of God."

## MARK 6: 45-52

Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray. And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them.

And about the fourth watch of the night, he came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them, but when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

# SOME THINGS TO DISCUSS

I DON'T HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS! THERE ARE NO WRONG ONES.

Why did Jesus have to MAKE the disciples get into the boat?

Having just fed the five thousand, why did He feel the need to pray?

What is the significance of the FOURTH watch of the night?

Why were His disciples so scared when they saw Jesus, walking on the water?

Why was Peter afraid when he saw the wind?

Why does Peter start to sink and what does it say to us about our own faith?

Why did the wind cease immediately that Jesus got into the boat?

The disciples said that he was "Truly the Son of God" - the only time in Matthew's gospel that they use this form of address - but how strong was their faith?

What extra information does Mark 6: 45-51 tell us about this encounter and why is it significant?

WHAT MAKES A  
SUCCESSFUL  
'WATER  
WALKER':

"DOING WITH  
GOD'S HELP  
WHAT I COULD  
NEVER DO ON  
MY OWN"

JOHN ORTBERG

---

Recognise God's presence

---

Can discern between faith and foolishness

---

Get out of the boat

---

Expect problems

---

Expect fear as the price of growth

---

See failure as an opportunity to grow

---

Learn to wait on the Lord

---

Have a deeper connection with God



## HOW DOES SUCH A THING AS WATER WALKING COME ABOUT?

”THERE IS A CONSISTENT  
PATTERN IN SCRIPTURE  
OF WHAT HAPPENS IN A  
LIFE THAT GOD WANTS  
TO USE AND IMPROVE”

JOHN ORTBERG



- There is always a call – God asks an ordinary person to engage in an act of extraordinary trust
- There is always fear – God has an inextinguishable habit of asking people to do things that are scary to them
- There is always reassurance – God promises to be there with us
- There is always a decision – always it’s the person that must decide
- There is always a changed life – those who say yes to God’s call never walk the walk perfectly, but they learn and grow along the way.

# FURTHER THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

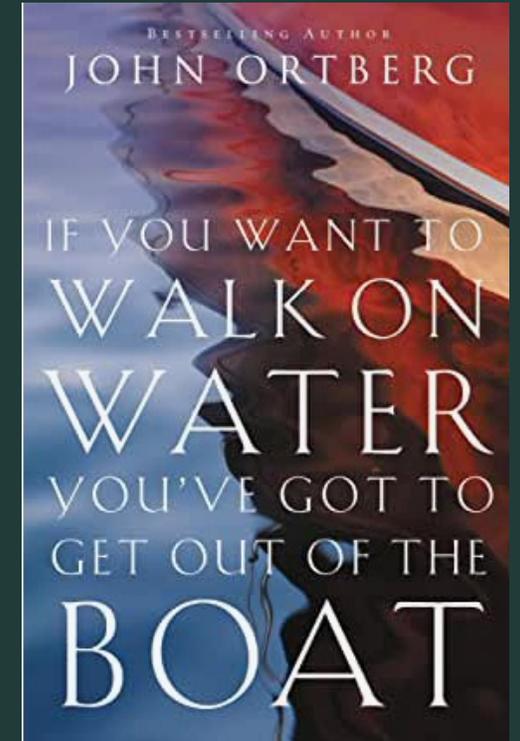
- What's your boat? Is fear or comfort keeping you from trusting God?
- How do you know if you're really being called to get out of the boat?
- What's one risk in your life that you could take that could help your faith to grow?
- Where are you in relation to Jesus?

*Huddled in your boat with your life preserver tightly secured*

*One leg in the boat and one leg in the water (hedging your bets)*

*Out of the boat but still very worried about the wind / waves / sea monsters*

*Walking on the water with Jesus*



John Ortberg: If you want to walk on water, you've got to get out of the boat. 2001 Zondervan.

# THE LAST WORD – FROM THE AUTHOR

“I believe that there is something – someone – inside us who tells us there is more to life than sitting in a boat. You were made for something more than merely avoiding failure. There is something inside you that wants to walk on the water – to leave the comfort of routine existence and abandon yourself to the high adventure of following God. So let me ask you a very important question – what’s your boat?”

Your boat is whatever represents safety and security to you apart from God himself. Your boat is whatever you are tempted to put your trust in, especially when life gets a little stormy. Your boat is whatever keeps you so comfortable that you don’t want to give it up even its stopping you from joining Jesus on the waves. Your boat is whatever pulls you away from the high adventure of extreme discipleship.

Want to know what your boat is? Your fear will tell you! ... leaving it may be the hardest thing you ever do!”