

Walking on Water

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Intro_

[Mt 14:22-33](#). Jesus performed a large number of miracles, so many that it is impossible that they all be recorded according to [Jn 21:25](#). This particular miracle appears to have become a symbol to represent the miraculous powers of Jesus; for whom else but the Son of God can walk on water? There is only one who has the power to control all creation; only one who is the Master of law and order established in Heaven and Earth; Jesus Christ the Son of God. When reading this account, I see two parts to this example; the power of Jesus and the actions of Peter.

Imperfect Beings

One of the reasons that this example is recorded is to show us that the apostles were just men; they were imperfect beings. They were subject to passions and sentiments of men; love, hate, fear, anger, strength and weakness. There are other examples that show us similar things.

- In [John 18:10-11](#) Peter out of his own desires attempted to keep Jesus from the cross; not realizing that it was the Will of God.
- In [John 20:24-29](#) Thomas doubted the resurrection of Jesus.

In [Mark 4:35-41](#) we see a similar example as our introductory passage. Jesus was with His disciples in the ship (asleep) and when a storm arose they were so afraid of dying that they woke him up asked Him “don’t you care that we are going to die?”

Unbelief

What does the phrase, “*O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?*” mean? Compare it with: [Mt 17:20](#) where the Apostles were unable to cast out a demon, that Jesus rebuked, they asked him why; “*And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.*” And to [Mk 4:40](#) “*And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?*”

What is Jesus asking them? He is asking, why did you fail to believe? Where is your belief? The accounts in Matthew, of Jesus walking on water, and the calming of the seas in Mark demonstrate the suspension and failure of Christian faith! Did the apostles believe in Christ? Of course! Remember when Jesus asked Peter “*Lovest thou me more than these*” in [John 21:15-17](#). Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him three times if he loved Him. The apostles loved and worshiped Jesus as the Messiah. Yet their faith wavered; they failed to believe continually. But I tell you now that *many* have lost faith in the Son of God. Peter is just an example of the many. Many have failed to continue, and to endure unto the full maturation of faith!

Jesus told his disciples this in [Mt 24:13](#) “*But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*” And they in turn, relay this same message throughout generations to the church warning that we must endure. It is only due to a faithful disciple of Christ that performed the work unto the end with perseverance that we today possess an immovable salvation and a faith so great that we can move mountains. [Rev. 2:7](#) “*He that hath an ear,*

let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."

In former times, the Church has demonstrated faith toward many of the scriptural tenets it practices; baptism, A Capella singing, etc., enough to keep it above water, and furthermore, has contended to defend their continuance as articles of faith. However, when it came to upholding the order of authority for the perfection of the Christian conversation within the worship service, its faith suffered shipwreck! When members taking a stand in favor of the statute observe the boisterous opposition against it, their faith dwindles and they sink within the many waters of rebellion and disorder!

Disorder

The sea in Mt 14 and Mk 4 are raging and boisterous. As a desert represents barrenness, so the sea represents disorder, and in its tumultuous state it is represented as filled with pride and rage against the heavens. Notice its usage in [Rev17:1](#) *"And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:"* The many waters are the same as many nations and these are in disorder because they abide in infidelity and treachery against the Son of God and his gospel. They also fail to observe the model of perfect Christian conversation as outlined throughout the NT. Walking in faith in the midst of these many waters, these waters of disorder, with boisterous and raging waves is trying. It is a test of true faith.

In [Psa. 18:16](#) we find a similar depiction as we saw with Peter. Here someone is crying out to the Lord for salvation. Save me oh lord! Reach out your hand and draw me from the many waters. This is not Peter, but who? Remember also, Jesus reproved the sea. He rebuked it saying "be still!" And it obeyed! The sea recognizes His voice. [Psa. 114:3, 5](#). Jordan was driven back. It fled before Levi (the priesthood), it fled before Judah (election). The *sea* could not prevent the coming of the *kingdom* (Lord's dominion) and it fled. The token of the Lord's Kingdom was manifested in the anointing or election of one person whom the Spirit recognizes as the Elect Lady of John's Second Epistle.

In the days of the Judaic Law, Moses was the voice of the Lord. He instructed the Israelites, giving them the law in the Name of the Lord. In the NT church during a time of trial in the midst many waters of disorder (that is many opinions, many heresies) there was one who spoke with the voice and authority of the Son. This individual upheld the commandment in [1Cor11](#), keeping order, and continued to walk faithfully in love according to second John. This individual is represented in the NT as the Lord's Elect.

Conclusion

If we find ourselves sinking and seemingly unable to continue to follow Christ, will we blame Christ for our own unbelief? Or will we be as the man found in [Mark 9:23-24](#) to whom Jesus spoke saying *"Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief."*

Jesus is calling; bidding those who have not dedicated themselves to His service to come to him. Do you fear to walk in faith? Or will you hear the call of our Lord and Savior and be not faithless but believing. Confess the Lord Jesus as the Son of God and be baptized today.