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WATER WALKER ??

Even people who don't know much about the Bible know about the miracle of Jesus walking on water. There's a species of water-walking lizard the scientific community calls "the Jesus lizard." Dynamic leaders are often highly regarded as being able to "walk on water." But how about **you**?

Do you sometimes picture yourself out in a little boat tossed on a stormy sea? Darkness deepens and wind and waves grow higher and stronger. You can't be sure what you see. A ghostly figure - walking on the water - undisturbed by all that troubles you. A frightening specter? Fear descends? But then you hear Jesus' words, "**It is I - do not be afraid.**" This changes everything in the whirling world around you! And you reach shore in a calm sea, because Jesus is with you. That's what happened to the disciples in John 6:16-21 on the Sea of Galilee. Because the antidote to fear is faith.

And Jesus wasn't the only water walker that night. Matthew records how Jesus invited, and Peter got out of the boat, walked on water, and came to Jesus. Peter trusted and obeyed. That's the power of the Lord of creation moving a believer to experience Him. But you'll never walk on water unless you get out of the boat, in the storm. Yes, the antidote to fear is faith - but frequent doses are required. Belief and unbelief waft in brief moments apart. Trusting, wavering, then sinking. But Peter knew what to do - he cried out, "**Lord, save me!**" - and that is what you and I must do. Trust and obey.

Think about it. Peter had a burst of faith to walk on water. But not enough to keep from sinking. It shows how our focus, our faith, must be in the LORD of the miracles, not the miracles themselves. Nor in our own faith - **but in HIM** who is faithful. Because faith is only as good as the trustworthiness or faithfulness of the object of our faith. Faith in Jesus is the strongest possible faith. He will never fail. But when doubts come, as they will, keep trusting in Jesus, the Son of God. He will save you!

Miracles in John's gospel thus far have revealed Jesus as "Lord of Creation." HE has power to turn water into wine, cleanse the temple, heal the sick, etc. Why does this miracle of walking on the water occur right between "food for 5,000" and declaring "**I AM the Bread of Life**"? Even with increasing revelation of His deity, the disciples were slow to believe. In Mark 6:52 we learn the reason for their "**little faith**" - they still did not understand about the loaves. So Jesus shows He is greater than Moses, the great deliverer who parted the Red Sea, fed the people in the wilderness, and gave them the Word of God. Jesus shows it was not Moses, but GOD, who did all these things. Jesus is greater than Moses because Jesus is God. He created the sea, walks upon it and controls it. That's why we can trust and obey Him for every physical and spiritual fear of our lives. HE is Lord of Creation. And OUR Strong Deliverer.

Thinking only in physical terms about the miracle, they failed to see the miracle-worker for who He said **He IS - God** come in the flesh. Walking on water helped move the disciples from fear to faith. In many ways, it's an analogy of the Christian life. In our dangerous calling of discipleship, we are very much like those men in the boat, sent out by Jesus without Him into a dangerous situation. He has gone to heaven. He warns us to expect trials and persecutions. We await His second coming. Meantime, we often row against the wind as we trust and obey, striving to proclaim the Good News, making disciples. We too are often afraid in the storms of life. But unlike those disciples before Pentecost, WE have the power of the Holy Spirit WITHIN us. Power to trust and obey, midst the turmoil of the world, overcoming fear with faith.

John 6 is not so much about the Lord's Supper as the Lord's Supper is about John 6. Plus, it points to John's Revelation. We trust the **LORD** of the Lord's Supper, who walked on water as Lord of Creation and our Strong Deliverer. The Israelites wanted to make Jesus their political king in John 6 - but He is already more powerful than that - as "Lord of the Nations." To most Israelites, the sea was like the chaos and disorder of the world and nations that only God could control. When He fulfills the promise to come, we will join the Bread of Life in the "marriage supper of the Lamb" (Revelation 19) in the new heavens and earth, where there will be no more sea - no more frightening turmoil of the world (Revelation 21).

It all turns out all right. Have you put your trust in HIM - who commands and the universe obeys? HE is the only way to the safe haven of heaven. And having declared Him Lord of your life, will you trust Him NOW midst the storms of life? He says, "**IT IS I - be not afraid**" = trust Him, obey Him. All will be well.