

Message Extras

a little something extra to keep you connected to Jesus this week

Message Extras accompany the [weekly message](#).

This week's message focuses on Jesus walking on water. I write that sentence as if it happens every day. I've walked on water. Every time I have gone ice fishing with my brothers-in-law, I have walked on frozen water! He who spoke creation into being has influence and control over everything. The one who made water can also walk on it.

This miracle on water reminds me of the parting of the Red Sea. In both situations we can declare God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is supernaturally personal. Our good, good God provides, protects, rescues, and guides His followers despite the natural calamities that surround them. By faith, fear gives way to trust. By faith, God is with us.

Read John 6:16-24

While Jesus leaves for the mountains of upper Galilee (John 6:14-15), the disciples set sail, heading northeast shore. After rowing three or four miles, a storm catches them in the middle of the lake. As noted above, such east/west winds are common on this sea, and fishermen watched for them carefully. Their fear of the rough water, however, was surpassed by their terror at seeing Jesus walking to them on the water ([6:19](#)). Copyright © 2000 Gary M. Burge. [NIV Application Commentary](#)

Can you imagine this situation?

I am reminded of another water miracle: Moses, with Pharaoh's army in hot pursuit, led Israel through the parted water of the Red Sea (Exodus 14). Moses led but God provided.

Psalms 77 describes the trip through the Red Sea as a personal psalm of prayer, desperation and praise, and of lament and victory.

Jot down...

1. What you learn about God...

2. What you learn about the writer of the psalm...
3. How does the honesty of the psalm affect you?
4. Do you have recent situations where you have been fearful and overwhelmed?

When Jesus gets to the boat, he identifies himself in a way that sounds familiar to their ears and hopefully ours: "It is I, do not fear." I AM here! I AM is the personal name of God. Again, this calls the disciples and us back to Moses' fear when encountering God at the burning bush in Ex. 3. "At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God" (Ex. 3:6). And then in Ex. 3:14 Moses learns that God's name is "I AM WHO I AM" or Yahweh in Hebrew. These miracles give us hope. They build our confidence. They empower our faith. They call me to keep trusting and keep obeying. He can calm the storm or join us in the storm. He can part the seas or get us through hardship.

Jesus came to them in the storm. And that is a time He comes to His own today. He makes Himself more real to us in a time of trouble and sorrow. I don't know why He waits until midnight, until the waves are rolling, but perhaps that is the only time we will listen to Him. When the storms of life are beating upon our little boat, our hearts are ready for His presence.

Where would you like Jesus to meet you in your life today?

Who do you know you need to have Jesus meet them in a particular situation or need?

What role does a group of believers play in supporting and encouraging you right now?
Give your group or individuals in your group a thank you note.

If you would like help to find a group, scroll to the end of message extras and click the GROUPS button.

Who do you know that needs a group around them? How can you help them find a group?

