

THE GOSPEL OF MARK: STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

6, The Gospel conflict in this sinful world against unbelief, disbelief, false belief, and weak belief, but saving faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the victory that over comes the world.

Part 6E(4)

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Introduction: Jesus walking on water seems to have captured popular imagination so that the imagery and phrase "walking on water" is used ranging from films and comedy skits to expressing esteem as well as #2 charted country ballad in 1990.

The popular idea is to recognize something extraordinary, an uncommon feat or accomplishment, which gains public notice or reputation.

The only original source for this idea is from the Gospels' account of Jesus walking across the stormy Sea of Galilee to His Apostles in a boat, (Matthew 14:22-32, Mark 6:45-52, John 6:15-21). These two stories about Jesus feeding the multitude with a few pieces of bread and fish and His walking on water are connected in the Gospel narratives as here in Mark 6:45-52.

Mark also links these two stories for a faith lesson by v. 52, "For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened."

Chapter 6, The Gospel conflict in this sinful world is against unbelief, disbelief, false beliefs, and weak belief, but saving faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the victory that overcomes the world.

vv. 45-52, Not keeping Christ-centered Scripture testimonies and teachings results in spiritual malnourishment along with foolish unscriptural imaginations and fears:

v. 45, Jesus urgently directed the disciples to embark across the Sea of Galilee while He dispersed the crowd...

- After the miraculous feeding of the multitude in the late afternoon, concerns over the Apostles and people feeding their popular excitement into personal expectations about Jesus needed deliberate intervention (cf. Jn. 6:15).

** Christ's Gospel ministers need to exercise faith to combat the influence of crowds and money over misguided ministry emphases and false Messianic expectations both of which continue causing confusion about the mission and priorities of the visible Church today, (cf. John 6)...*

vv. 46-49, Jesus publicly departed into the mountain to pray; leaving the Apostles and the crowds of people at the time of such popularity seems anticlimactic [disappointing, "bummer"] by human desires for approval and self-esteem.

Note: Consider the continuing popular use of the walking on water episode compared to attention given to the record of Jesus praying...

- Jesus leaving the multitude of people to go into the mountain to pray and His coming down again to walk across the water to His disciples is another symbolic/antitype identifier of Him being the Prophet and Deliverer/Savior greater than Moses.
- Jesus was on land in the mountain praying while the disciples were fighting a storm on the sea, but Jesus saw, was profoundly aware, of their circumstances in the middle of the night in the middle of the raging sea.
**Some think that with a near full moon close to Passover (Jn. 6:4) and from the vantage of high ground, Jesus could visibly see the disciples in the boat on the sea. However, the boat was 3 to 4 miles out in the sea (Jn. 6:19) and between 3-6 a.m. (Mk. 6:48) plus stormy conditions all suggest low visibility. So the reassuring witness of Christ-centered Scripture testimonies is that nothing throughout creation, physical or supernatural, can hide or separate Christ from being attentive to those He loves and for whom He prays (cf. Hebrews 10"19-25//4:8-16, et al.).*
- Jesus went walking across the stormy sea intentionally to come alongside the distressed disciples in the boat, [Gk. "He desired to pass by them."]. But the disciples not keeping Christ-centered Scripture testimonies and teachings were overcome with terror from unscriptural imagination and fears, e.g. a phantom, ghost, wraith—not a friendly spirit-being...
**Spiritual malnourishment is a condition of feeding our imagination and fears and not feeding on Christ by faith (cf. Jn. 6)...*

vv. 50-52, Jesus identified Himself as "I AM", e.g. the uncreated, self-existing, self-revealing promise keeping God and Christ-centered Scripture testimonies and teachings are faith-food to nourish the souls of Christian believers.

- "ego eimi"=Gk. I Am (being), "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us." (1 Jn. 4:18-19)
- Jesus continually urged His disciples to a stronger faith by commanding exhortations and displays of Divine providence and powers, cf. Mk. 4:35-41//4:1,5:2, 18, 21, 6:32...
- Mark also links these two stories for a faith lesson by v. 52, "For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened."
In this story, the disciple shows an example of not keeping Christ-centered Scripture testimonies and teachings even though they ate the food from Jesus' miracle and had previously witnessed His powers over the natural and supernatural creation as the Gospel of Mark gives the straight talk...
**Jesus urges the faith imperatives of courage [Gk. good cheer, rejoice, e.g. James 1:2-8] and un-fear by the sanctifying of moral-memory which is one way the Holy Spirit strengthens Christian believers to resist temptation and sin...*

