

Jesus Walks on Water

Matthew 14	Mark 6	John 6
		15 Jesus therefore, perceiving that they were about to come and take him by force, to make him king, [...]
22 Immediately ¹ Jesus made the disciples get into the boat, [...]	45 Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat, [...]	16 When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea,
22 [...] and to go ahead of him to the other side, [...]	45 [...] and to go ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, ² [...]	17 and they entered into the boat, and were going over the sea to Capernaum. [...]
22 [...] while he sent the multitudes away. 23 After he had sent the multitudes away, [...]	45 [...] while he himself sent the multitude away. 46 After he had taken leave of them, [...]	
23 [...] he went up into the mountain by himself to pray. [...]	46 [...] he went up the mountain to pray.	15 [...] withdrew again to the mountain by himself.
23 [...] When evening had come, [...]	47 When evening had come, [...]	17 [...] It was now dark, [...]
23 [...] he was there alone.	47 [...] and he was alone on the land.	17 [...] and Jesus had not come to them.
24 But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, [...]	47 [...] the boat was in the middle of the sea, [...]	19 When therefore they had rowed about twenty-five or thirty stadia, ³ [...]
24 [...] distressed by the waves, [...]	48 Seeing them distressed in rowing, [...]	
24 [...] for the wind was contrary.	48 [...] for the wind was contrary to them, [...]	18 The sea was tossed by a great wind blowing.
25 In the fourth watch of the night, Jesus came to them, walking on the sea.	48 [...] about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea, [...],	

¹ When John 6:16 says the disciples left in the evening, it does not disagree with Matthew 14:22 and Mark 6:45, which say the disciples left immediately. First, the evening was imminent when Jesus fed 5,000+ people just before this. Second, the Gospels frequently use the word εὐθέως (*euthéos*), often translated as *immediately*. This expresses that something happened quickly, anywhere from *immediately* to *soon*. The point is that Jesus did not delay. He saw the crowd plotting to put Him in power and wasted no time leaving—although it was already late.

² Mark 6:45 says they set out for Bethsaida, while John 6:17 says Capernaum. Furthermore, John 6:21 says they arrived “where they were going,” while Mark 6:53 says they landed at Gennesaret. However, they were *coming* from Bethsaida as well. There were two villages called Bethsaida: one on the northwest side of the Sea of Galilee, and another, sometimes called Bethsaida Julius on the northeast side. The disciples were apparently sailing from the wilderness near Bethsaida Julius to the region around the northwestern Bethsaida. This village lay in the same region as the larger settlements of Capernaum and Gennesaret, and these names were likely used interchangeably to describe the area where they were located.

³ Approximately 3 miles.

Matthew 14	Mark 6	John 6
	48 [...] and he would have passed by them, ⁴	
26 When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It's a ghost!" and they cried out for fear.	49 but they, when they saw him walking on the sea, supposed that it was a ghost, and cried out;	19 [...] they saw Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing near to the boat; [...]
	50 for they all saw him, and were troubled. [...]	19 [...] and they were afraid.
27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Cheer up! It is I! Don't be afraid."	50 [...] But he immediately spoke with them, and said to them, "Cheer up! It is I! Don't be afraid."	20 But he said to them, "It is I. Don't be afraid."
28 Peter answered him and said, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the waters." 29 He said, "Come!" Peter stepped down from the boat, and walked on the waters to come to Jesus. 30 But when he saw that the wind was strong, he was afraid, and beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" 31 Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand, took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"		
32 When they got up into the boat, [...]	51 He got into the boat with them; [...]	21 They were willing therefore to receive him into the boat. [...]
32 [...] the wind ceased.	51 [...] and the wind ceased, [...]	
33 Those who were in the boat came and worshiped him, saying, "You are truly the Son of God!"	51 [...] and they were very amazed among themselves, and marveled;	
	52 for they hadn't understood about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened. ⁵	
	53 When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret, and moored to the shore.	21 [...] Immediately the boat was at the land where they were going.

⁴ Jesus did not plan to abandon them but to demonstrate His power and reveal His true nature. Compare this with God's revelation of His glory to Moses when He *passed by* (Exodus 33:20-23).

⁵ John 6:14 shows the crowd acknowledging Jesus as Messiah after He miraculously fed 5,000+ people. Yet, in Mark 6:51-52, the disciples still lacked understanding of who Jesus is. In John, the crowd recognize Jesus as Messiah but misinterpret that as a powerful military and political leader. Mark speaks specifically about the disciples. Even if the disciples joined the crowds in assuming Jesus was the Messiah, they shared the crowd's misunderstanding of that role. However, that was far from understanding Him as the Son of God (Matthew 14:22; Mark 6:51).