

The famous encounter on the sea

The disciples were right in the middle of the sea and about three o'clock in the morning Jesus came walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking around on the sea they were in a state of uproar and anarchy. Like all seafarers they thought their number had come. It was they thought a strange impression in the mind (Greek **φάντασμα**) and they yelled out with fear till Jesus spoke quietly to them. The word the LORD used does not just mean "cheer up" it means "Venture, have confidence, do not fear"(Greek **θάρσει**) It was as if Jesus was circling around saying "Venture to walk". It holds the option of "joining Jesus in it especially as Jesus was walking "around" not just directly towards them". It was quite other-worldly. He was inviting them to use powers man does not have "to walk on water". Peter ventured-but only when he well understood Jesus was commanding it. Jesus said to Peter "Come" and Peter walked around on the waves to come to Jesus.

How to sink yourself

He saw the strength of the wind and having begun to sink himself with his fear and failure to look to Jesus he cried out, "Lord, save me". Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and took hold of him and said, "O little faith" why did you have two minds? This word (Greek **δισταζω**) is found in Matthew when the LORD appears to His disciples and followers on a mountain in Galilee-"some doubted". There the doubt was not to do with fear but as to whether or not they were seeing Jesus. It has to do therefore with doubting the person of Christ. It can also mean "to be of two minds" and so on the one hand the anxiety or fear of a mighty wind as opposed to the assurance of being enabled or having faith in Christ is the contradiction that destabilises.

The wind ceased

And when they came into the ship the wind ceased. (Greek **κοπαζω/κοπιαω** meaning "to grow tired") The big fear that Peter had was the "wind" and it was blowing out. The Christian has to come to terms with the brevity of trial and that it is well modulated by the sovereign hand of God. "The LORD will not try us above that we are able but will also provide with trial a way to escape that we may be able to bear it"(1Cor 10.13) So those in the boat came and kneeled to him, saying, "truly you are the Son of God". The spectators in the boat may have wished that they had ventured-or been glad that they had not-for had they all taken their eyes off Christ there would have been a few splashes. It may have been quite otherwise-for the wind was not its own master although it was a natural cause and effect wind it was subject to the word of God. They fell down in worship before Christ. They were not just convinced of Who He was; they were sure He could keep them.

The Gennesaret healings

By now it was morning and as they pulled into the west just south of Capernaum people brought their sick and asked to "touch the hem of His garment" -a custom developed from gaining a kinsman redeemer and enforced by the famous healing of the woman with the issue of blood. All who touched the hem were healed. Jesus never fails. Here the disciples were re-introduced to the great need of the world around them after their wet night at sea.



From paper to practice

In apologetics proofs of the created order are developed and proofs that there is a creator. Jesus afforded valid evidence to the absolute convincing of the disciples as to His divine person

Walking on water (fill in the blanks)

They were in the _ _ _ _ _ of the sea. They were T _ _ _ _ _

Jesus said V _ _ _ _ _

Those in the boat said, "Truly" or "there is no hiding it" You are _ _ _ _ _