

File No. 123

MATTHEW 14:22–33

Mark 6:45–52; John 6:15–21

WALKING ON THE SEA

(SBS Book 4 Story No 63)

Story Notes

A storm on the Sea of Galilee was difficult to handle, but someone walking on the sea was, like the feeding of the 5000, beyond the understanding of the disciples. They could only speak of it as a ghost—an appearance that was not real.

However, when Peter knew it was Jesus and heard the words ‘Fear not!’ he wanted to participate in the miracle.

He faltered when he considered the waves, but said, ‘Lord, save me!’

Why did Peter doubt? Did he doubt that he could tread on such a wind swept sea, or that Jesus was Son of God? Perhaps the questions are the same.

Whatever the answer, he was no sooner saved and in the boat than the fearful wind subsided. All the disciples confessed that Jesus was the Son of God.

Later on, this confession was required of the disciples again, in more settled circumstances (Matt.16:16).

It is a confession that forced itself on the centurion responsible for carrying out the execution of Jesus (Matt. 27:54).

There were other occasions when the Sea of Galilee was the scene for learning more about faith (Matt. 8:26; 16:8).

The disciples needed faith in place of doubt so they could live with courage and not with fear. Jesus was calling them to live in the world over which he had come to rule as King,

On landing at Gennesaret, the miracles continued.

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