

SURROUNDED

WALKING ON WATER



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Age 15-18 year olds



Did you know?

LET'S TALK FACTS

SCRIPTURES

Matthew 14: 29-31

"So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

- In Jewish culture, the sea is often seen as symbolizing evil, sinister purposes, chaos, or even death.
- In Revelation 21, the bible describes a new earth and guess what? There is no sea because the sea represents a lot of darkness for their culture.
- Biblically, baptism requires full emersion in water. This symbolizes death to our sins and new life being born.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR ME?

Usually thinking of the ocean causes **relaxation, peace, and pure enjoyment** to come to mind. So, it's difficult to wrap our head around the fact that the Jewish culture **did not see** great bodies of water in the same light. In fact, the water was associated with **great trepidation**. Specifically, most biblical references to the sea imply evil, disaster, and even death. It is no wonder that the disciples were full of fear as they were **surrounded** by waves, wind, and darkness.

Yet, there was Jesus **walking on the water** like he was taking a stroll in the park. He did not have even one ounce of **fear**. Everything that was **surrounding** the disciples as they were terrified in the boat didn't even phase Jesus. You see, anyone **should** have sunk into all of that darkness and **drowned**. However, Jesus was above it all; the neat thing about this passage is that Peter was able to walk on the water too as long as **he kept his eyes on Christ**. The instant that Peter **shifted his attention to all of the chaos and impending doom** surrounding him, he began to sink into the darkness.

Even though Peter took his eyes off of Jesus, he did not drown because our savior was right there with his hand out ready to pull him back up to safety.

CHALLENGE

Our society is surrounded with chaos, fear, and darkness. Even **death** threatens us and those we love. It is vital to remember that our **God is above it all**. In fact, **he commands it all**. The storms in our life must obey his voice. Even still, we must keep our eyes on him! We must extend our hand to his! After all, **Jesus is always reaching for us!**

WHERE DO I START?

Remind yourself who is in control!

Matthew 8:27

"The disciples were amazed. "Who is this man?" they asked. "Even the winds and waves **obey** him!"

Psalms 94:19

"When **anxiety** was **great** within me, your consolation brought joy to my soul."

Luke 12:22-26

"**Do not worry** about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, **why do you worry about the rest?**"

Psalms 27:1

"The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear? **The Lord is the stronghold of my life** – of whom shall I be afraid?"