

"Oh We of Little Faith"  
The Gospel of John Chapter 6:15-21

The Gospel accounts in both Matthew (14:22-36) and Mark (6:45-56) give us further information about the subsequent events to the miracle of the loaves and fishes. They tell us that Jesus made His disciples get into the boat while He sent the multitudes away. John gives us the reason for the dismissal of the multitude; they wished to make Jesus their King. However, Jesus savored the things of God, not of men (Matt. 16:23). Did Jesus send the disciples away lest they, too, be caught up in the crowds' fervor?

Jesus, as was His habit, spends time alone in prayer (Mk. 1 :35; Lk. 6:12-13). What a beautiful picture God has preserved for us through His word. The disciples are in the midst of the sea in a storm (Ps. 107:23-32) while Jesus is on the mountain praying. He is praying for us today as we go through the storms of life (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25).

The wind is contrary and the disciples are in danger, but the One Who created everything (Gen. 1: 1; Jhn. 1: 1) is also able to override the laws He established (Heb. 1 :3). In the darkest part of the night (the fourth watch, after 3 a.m.) Jesus comes through the storm. There is no mention that the disciples are afraid of the storm, but they fear the figure they think is a ghost (Matt. 14:26). In our storms of life, we often do not recognize the providential Hand of God in our circumstances (Rom. 8:28,31-39). "Be of good cheer, it is I," the Lord tells them (Jhn. 14:1-3,27, 16:33). "Do not be afraid," the Lord tells them and us as well (Ps. 27:1-2, 56:4; 2Tim. 1:7).

The ever impetuous Peter boldly asks the Lord to walk on the water like He is doing. Peter leaves the boat and walks on the water until he notices that the wind is boisterous. He begins to sink, but he does what is best. He cries out to Jesus to save Him. When our eyes are focused on the storms of life instead of Christ, we will sink into sin, worry, depression, etc. (Jms. 4:1-7; Matt. 6:25-34). We only need to cry out to the One Who can identify with us, for He was tempted in all areas, yet without sin (Heb. 4:14,15). We can come boldly to the throne of grace to find help (Heb. 4: 16).

The tempest ceases as Jesus and Peter enter the boat. The disciples come and worship Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God" (Matt. 14:33). It is a high moment of faith, like Peter's confession (Matt. 16:13:...20). They, like we, will find it difficult to remain on that peak (Heb. 12:1). Let us therefore look to Jesus, the Author and finisher of our faith (Heb. 12:2).