

JESUS WALKS ON WATER

Matthew 14:22-33, Mark 6:45-51, John 6:16-21

Life is filled with *seasons*. Some drag, and God seems as if He is a million miles away, while others fly along as we seemingly float through them blessed and happy. The crazy thing is, you may be sitting beside someone that is in the exact opposite *season* than you. Some Believers conclude that the reason they are humming along great and you are struggling is that they are doing something that you're not doing. They have principles, steps, tools, or goals (written down so they become magic), that you don't have. Maybe they are more disciplined, focused, or dedicated. If you could learn to be more like them and do what they do, you could be blessed like them. The truth about following Jesus is that Jesus is not an algorithm or formula. You know... push - pull - click - click - be spiritual that quick! The fact is- life with Jesus comes in waves.

THREE *More* OBSERVATIONS THAT REVEAL THE TRUTH ABOUT FOLLOWING JESUS

Observation #1

When you are following Jesus, the storm often ends just as you are becoming accustomed to it.

Why do storms stop at the most awkward times? It seems to me that the most opportune time for Jesus to stop the storm would be BEFORE they got back in the boat. Peter is sinking, and Jesus grabs him and then proceeds to have a conversation with him while standing right in the middle of the wind and waves. Why didn't He stop the storm so He could have the conversation in peace and quiet?

Observation #2

When you are following Jesus, your effort can only take you so far.

Everyone in this room has ... THE OTHER SIDE. We are all trying to get on the other side of something. Jesus put them in the boat, commanded them to meet Him on the other side, and, in nine hours, they had rowed three or four miles. They were practically standing still ... all that effort and such little progress.

Observation #3

When you are following Jesus, your role in your own life is secondary.

We live in a culture that says, "If you're gonna get what's yours ... you better get it ... you better get to work ...nobody's gonna give it to you ... you're the captain of your own life! Peter, who has had some extraordinarily selfish moments while following Jesus, refuses to highlight himself in this final account of those miraculous moments. What happened to Peter?