

## JESUS AND PETER WALK ON THE WATER

MATTHEW 14:22-34

Do you know how to swim? Well, it's great if you can. But even very good swimmers can not walk on top of the water. Could anybody?

In Matthew chapter 14 in the Bible we learn that Jesus told His disciples to get into a boat and row across the lake. But Jesus went up into the mountain to pray. John 6 verse 15 tells us that Jesus did this because the people wanted to force Him to be their king after He fed the five thousand people with the little boy's lunch of 5 loaves of bread and 2 small fish. I guess the people wanted Him to keep on doing that forever for them. But out on the lake that night, the wind began to blow. The waves became huge and were frothed with whitecaps. The disciples had gone about 3 or 4 miles out across the sea. But oh, how dangerous it had become. The disciples were having a terrible time with the boat. Even the experienced fishermen were afraid they would die that night in that terrible fierce storm. Even though Jesus was not with them, He knew exactly what was going on. He was still taking care of them. Just before dawn, between 3 and 6 o'clock in the morning, Jesus went to His disciples.

How could Jesus cross the water to the disciples far out on the lake? He did what no man can do. He walked on top of the water. When the disciples saw a figure coming towards them out in the darkness, they were terrified. They thought they saw a ghost. Jesus called out to them. "Cheer up, it is I. Do not be afraid." One of the disciples thought of the wonderful power of Jesus. He felt that Jesus ruled the world and could do all things. John cried out "It's the Lord!" Peter thought Jesus could even make a poor weak man able to walk on the water. So Peter called out to Jesus "Lord if it's really you, tell me to come to you walking on the water." Jesus called back to Peter, "Come". Then Peter got out of the boat. As long as he kept his eyes on Jesus, Peter was able to walk on top of the water. But soon Peter looked around at the storm. His trust in Jesus weakened and Peter began to sink. In panic he cried out "Lord save me!" Jesus just stretched out his hand and took hold of Peter saying "O you of little faith". Did you not know I was able to keep you from sinking?" As soon as Jesus was in the boat the wind stopped. The storm stopped. The disciples were so filled with wonder that they came and knelt down before Him and said "Truly you are the Son of God."

Because He is the Son of God, Jesus could keep Peter, his disciple, from sinking into the water. He could even make the storm go away and the waves to stop. Do you think Jesus can help you when you are in some kind of trouble or have a stormy problem in your life? Of course He can. He promises that He will. The Bible says Jesus is the Good Shepherd. We are his sheep, and He keeps us and feeds us and protects us from danger day and night. Take time to read today's story in your Bible in Matthew chapter 14 verses 22 to 34.