

# The Gospel of John: Walking on Water

*John 6:16-21*

## Splitting the Party (v. 16-18)

- Because of the response of the crowd:
  - Jesus withdraws to a solitary hillside to pray (v. 15; Mt 14:23)
  - The disciples get in a boat to cross over the lake back to Capernaum
    - This was at Jesus' command (Mt 14:22)
- A windstorm starts making the sea rough

## Treading on the Sea (v. 19-21)

- Once the boat was about 3 miles from land, Jesus catches up with them by walking on the sea
  - Rough seas, not a calm stroll
- The disciples, not realizing it is Jesus, are terrified
  - They think He is a ghost (*phantasm*) (Mt 14:26; Mk 6:49)
- Jesus calms them by declaring who He is
  - "It is I" = *Ego eimi* = I AM
    - This may have the undertone of divine self-revelation
    - Jesus is showing by His actions that He is God
- In Scripture, the Sea often stands for chaos & disorder
  - It is God who controls & stills it (Gen 1:2; Job 9:8; 38:8-11, 16; Pss 29:3-4, 10-11; 65:5-7; 89:9; 107:23-32; Mk 4:41)
- Though they had been in the middle of the lake, they find themselves safe on the shores of Capernaum

## So What?

- Jesus is the God of Creation, with control of it all
- Do we trust Him when the world around us seems in turmoil?

**Meditation Verse:** Job 9:8

**Next Week's Scripture:** John 6:22-71