

BIBLE EXTENSION COURSE PROGRAM

Sign Five

Christ Walking on the Water

Lesson No.8

Required Reading: John 6:15-21 by Clifton H Carpenter

- **The Storm**
- **The Sign**
- **The Savior**

Key Verse: Mark 6:52 For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened.

INTRODUCTION – **Sign Five** is the “parallel miracle” to **Sign Four**. Details of the account are gathered from each Gospel writer. John writes his “witness document” 30-40 years after the other Gospels had been written. Thus, he did not feel it necessary to repeat many of the details that the other writers had given.

The Synoptic Gospels – A personal observation list of added details

The Setting – a place of leisure

1. **Matthew 14:13** “a desert place”
2. **Mark 6:31** “come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while” “for there were many coming and going and they had no leisure so much as to eat”
3. **Mark 6:32** “and they departed into a desert place **by ship** privately”
4. **Luke 9:10** “a desert place belonging to the city called **Bethsaida**” The hometown of Philip. **Where shall we buy bread?**

The Multitude – they sat in “groups” Lit a word used similar to “rows in a vegetable garden”

1. **Matthew 14:21** “about 5,000 men, beside women and children”
2. **Mark 6:40** “in ranks, by hundreds, and by fifties”
3. **Luke 9:14** “sat down by fifties in a company”

John 6:14 after the miracle of feeding the multitude, Jesus perceived that they would take him by force, “to make him a king” Jesus departed again into a mountain himself alone. **Luke 9:18** explains “as he was alone praying, his disciples were with him”

Examination Time – Luke 9:18-21

Who is Jesus of Nazareth?

- Whom say the people that **I Am?** **verse 18** John the Baptist “who is risen from the dead” **Matthew 14:2** or Elias
- Whom say ye that **I Am?** **verse 20** Peter answering said “The Christ of God.” Peter gets an “A”

1. **The Storm** – **Sign Five** denote the power Jesus has over the natural elements of the world. The spiritual significance is that “Jesus is our support when storms arise in life.” Many important implications can be drawn from **Sign Five**. Lest we forget

- Who sends the storms in our life?
- Who proves us?
- Who makes provisions for our needs and then test us?
- Who gives us a promise and then sends us out to see if we believe what we say?

It is the Lord himself – Jesus is “training us” “teaching us” “preparing us” building into our lives, so that we might be men and women of faith - **Confident, calm and able to cope with life.**

The Voyage to Capernaum – John 6:17

Mark writes that the disciples did not want to leave Jesus when he told them to go to Capernaum. “*straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship*” Jesus had to use a little persuasion with them. The word “*constrained*” – Jesus gave them a command to “**Get in the boat!**” **Mark 6:45**

NOTE – Sometimes we are caught in a storm because we have disobeyed the Lord. “*Jonah is a good example*” **Jonah 1:4** But sometimes the storm comes because we have obeyed the Lord. When that happens, we can be sure that our Savior will “*pray for us*” “*come to us*” and “*deliver us.*”

The Stormy Sea – Suddenly the conditions of the Sea changes as described by the Gospel writers:

- **Matthew** – “*the wind was contrary*”
- **Mark** – “*the wind was contrary unto them*”
- **John** – “*the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew*”

As darkness settled in – the disciples were “*toiling in rowing*” to try to get across to Capernaum, but the wind was driving them farther and farther south so that they lost sight of shore. **Mark 6:48** The disciples were facing a problem. The ship is in the midst of the sea “*tossed with waves*” **Matthew 14:24**

2. **The Sign – Sign Five** is probably the miracle for which Jesus is most famous. They see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: “*they cried out for fear*”

- **The Time** – “*fourth watch*” of the night, between 3-6 a.m. **Mark 6:48**
- **The Distance** – “*about five and twenty or thirty furlongs*” from shore, between 3-4 miles **John 6:19**
Furlong = 220 yards

3. **The Savior** – As Jesus approaches the ship, the disciples were frightened and thought it was a ghost. **Mark 6:49** When fear clutches our heart, where should we turn?

The words of Jesus – “*be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid*” **Matthew 14:27**

The events in life which scares the living daylights out of you, this strange form appearing in the midst of your life – **it is I**

- The very things that oppose you
- The boisterous sea of troubles
- The buffeting winds of problems

The words of Jesus – there is no need to fear when Jesus is in the storms with us.

- I have situations under my control
- I am in control of these events

Much like Peter – **Matthew 14:28-31** many think that Jesus is the only one who walked on water, but Peter did too. **Lord, if it is you, bid me to come to you on the water.**

Come – Peter started out “*boldly and confidently*” but as he looked at the waves, felt the wind “*his confidence failed*” and he began to sink into the water. Peter prays the shortest, most effective prayer in his life “*save me*” Jesus reached out to him, took his hand, and said, “*Oh, you of little faith*”

And Jesus went up unto them into the ship and the wind ceased: the disciples were sore amazed beyond measure, and wondered. “*For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened*” **Mark 6:51-52**

Sign Five teaches us “*the hidden resource of life*” the person to turn to when things get overwhelming and we find ourselves pressured. “*The Lord Jesus Christ*” (**official title**) is not someone to be reserved only for the great trials of life, but **I AM** is available for every situation of any degree.