

## TAKEAWAY:

# THE MIRACLE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Fear can be a crippling battle, both spiritually and emotionally. In Matthew 14, just after the miracle of Jesus feeding the thousands, we read the amazing account of Jesus walking on water. This account has so much to teach us about the very nature of God. It also challenges in how we respond to life's storms and challenges. Do we tend to respond in faith or in fear?

### Jesus Walks on Water

*Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.*

*Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.*

*But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."*

*"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."*

*"Come," he said.*

*Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"*

*Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."*

*When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret. And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to him and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.*

**Matthew 14:22-36**

### Explanation

The feeding of the 5000 teaches us that Jesus provides our daily bread, and cares about our physical needs. However, this miracle, which happens directly afterwards, shows Jesus give us something more precious than bread; himself. Jesus is the bread of life, and just as He is above the physical limitations of the water, the gift of his presence satisfies our needs way more than bread or other physical things can.

## Questions

1. What storms are you facing in your life at the moment? How are you responding to them?
2. Is there a Bible verse you find encouraging as you face the storms of life?
3. How do you practice the presence of Christ in the midst of the storm?
4. We notice that Peter walked on the water to Jesus - yet when he momentarily turned his focus from Jesus to the storm, he became afraid (v30). Discuss.

## Prayer

Storms are a reality of our everyday life. Jesus teaches us, however, that we do not have to face them alone: ***“Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid.”*** Take some time to pray that each of us will experience of the presence of Christ in the midst of the storms of life.