

## Study Questions for Matthew 14:22–33 (NKJV)

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### Parallel Passages in Mark and John

The account of Jesus walking on the water in **Matthew 14:22–33** (NKJV) is also recorded in:

- **Mark 6:45–52** – Parallel account (does not include Peter walking on the water).
- **John 6:16–21** – Parallel account emphasizing the disciples’ fear and immediate arrival at shore.

**Luke** does not record this event.

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### 1. Why does Jesus send the disciples ahead into the boat while He goes to pray?

Reference: Matthew 14:22–23; Luke 5:16

Jesus “made” the disciples get into the boat (Matthew 14:22), indicating intentional direction. This follows the feeding of the five thousand—a moment of public success and momentum. Instead of capitalizing on popularity, Jesus withdraws to pray (Matthew 14:23), as He often did in key moments (Luke 5:16). The contrast highlights His dependence on the Father over public approval.

Everyday application: Spiritual strength is sustained not by activity alone, but by intentional time with God.

### 2. What does the storm reveal about obedience and hardship?

Reference: Matthew 14:24; Psalm 107:23–30

The disciples encounter the storm while doing exactly what Jesus instructed. Their struggle was not the result of rebellion but obedience. Psalm 107 describes sailors caught in storms who cry out to the Lord, and He brings them through. The passage reminds us that obedience does not eliminate difficulty; it places us in God’s purposes within it.

Everyday application: Difficulty is not always a sign that we are outside God’s will.

### 3. Why do the disciples mistake Jesus for a ghost?

Reference: Matthew 14:25–26; Mark 6:52

The disciples are exhausted, fighting wind and waves through the night. When Jesus approaches in an unexpected way, fear fills the gap where understanding is absent. Mark notes their hearts were hardened and they had not fully grasped the previous miracle (Mark 6:52). Fatigue and limited understanding can distort perception.

Everyday application: When we are weary or discouraged, we may misinterpret what God is doing around us.

#### **4. What is the deeper significance of Jesus saying, “It is I; do not be afraid”?**

Reference: Matthew 14:27; Exodus 3:14; Isaiah 43:1–2

The phrase “It is I” echoes divine self-identification (Exodus 3:14). In Isaiah 43:2, God promises His presence through waters and rivers. Jesus does not immediately still the storm; He first reassures them of His identity and presence. The emphasis is relational before circumstantial.

Everyday application: Peace often begins with remembering who is present with us, not just hoping for different conditions.

#### **5. What does Peter’s step out of the boat reveal about active faith?**

Reference: Matthew 14:28–29; James 2:17

Peter asks for a command before stepping out. His faith is responsive, not impulsive. James teaches that faith expresses itself through action (James 2:17). Peter’s willingness to leave the security of the boat demonstrates trust in Christ’s authority rather than confidence in his own stability.

Everyday application: Faith often requires stepping forward when Christ calls, even if the situation feels unstable.

#### **6. Why does Peter begin to sink?**

Reference: Matthew 14:30; Hebrews 12:2

Peter’s focus shifts from Christ’s word to the visible wind. Fear regains control when circumstances dominate attention. Hebrews 12:2 urges believers to fix their eyes on Jesus. The issue is not the presence of wind, but the redirection of trust.

Everyday application: Distraction and fear can weaken trust when we allow circumstances to overshadow Christ.

#### **7. What does Jesus’ immediate rescue tell us about His character?**

Reference: Matthew 14:31; Psalm 18:16; Lamentations 3:22–23

When Peter cries, “Lord, save me!” Jesus responds immediately. Psalm 18:16 speaks of God reaching down to rescue. Though Jesus addresses Peter’s “little faith,” the correction comes within the context of rescue, not rejection. His rebuke refines, but His hand secures.

Everyday application: When we falter, calling out to Christ brings help, not humiliation.

#### **8. Why does this event lead the disciples to worship?**

Reference: Matthew 14:32–33; Psalm 89:9; Mark 6:51–52

When Jesus enters the boat and the wind ceases, the disciples worship and confess Him as the Son of God. Psalm 89:9 describes the Lord ruling the raging sea. The calming of the storm reveals authority that belongs to God alone. Mark adds that they were “greatly amazed,” still processing what they had witnessed (Mark 6:51–52). Their fear transforms into reverence as understanding

deepens.

Everyday application: Experiences of deliverance often deepen our understanding of who Christ truly is.

### **9. How does Psalm 50:15 connect to Peter crying out to Jesus in the storm?**

Reference: Matthew 14:30–31; Psalm 50:15

As Peter begins to sink, his prayer is brief and urgent: “Lord, save me!” (Matthew 14:30). Psalm 50:15 records God’s invitation: “*Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.*” Peter’s cry mirrors this promise. He does not offer explanation or defense—only dependence. Jesus immediately reaches out His hand (Matthew 14:31), fulfilling the pattern described in the Psalm: distress, calling, deliverance, and ultimately worship (Matthew 14:33). The episode shows that God’s invitation to call on Him is not theoretical—it meets real fear in real time. Everyday application: When we feel overwhelmed, honest dependence—simply calling out to the Lord—opens the way for His help and deepens our gratitude afterward.