

Carl Thomas

Psalms 78; Isaiah 6:1; Matthew 8; Matthew 14:22–33; Mark 6:49–52

Transforming Encounters

Matthew 14:22–33 (NASB95)

22Immediately He made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of *Him* to the other side, while He sent the crowds away.

23After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone.

24But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary.

25And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea.

26When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.

27But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

28Peter said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

29And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

30But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

31Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and *said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

32When they got into the boat, the wind stopped.

33And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "You are certainly God's Son!"

- This was supposed to be a transforming encounter.
- **Christianity starts with a transforming encounter**

Mark 6:49–52 (NASB95)

49But when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed that it was a ghost, and cried out;

50for they all saw Him and were terrified. But immediately He spoke with them and *said to them, "Take courage; it is I, do not be afraid."

51Then He got into the boat with them, and the wind stopped; and they were utterly astonished,

52for they had not gained any insight from the *incident of the loaves*, but their heart was hardened.

- Jesus wasn't looking for a violent overthrow of Rome like the **zealots** – He was the price of peace.
- He wasn't coming to be the perfect **Pharisee** – He said you are tithing perfectly but you forget the more important things, like justice, taking care of the poor and afflicted.
- He wasn't interested in the **Sadducees** system of getting wealthy off the temple – he went in there and turned over the tables.
- **The Kingdom of Heaven is here!**

What was new about Jesus? Even parables had been regularly used by the old prophets, not to the extent that Jesus used them, but they had been used. What was new was not the content of Jesus prophesying. What was new was that his proclamation of the immediate coming of the Kingdom of God left people no time to get ready. The old prophecies had always left people with time to get ready. Jesus' prophesying left people with no time at all. Those who heard him either had to accept the message or turn it down. In effect, a person's acceptance or rejection of the Kingdom of God's imminent arrival was consonant with their reaction to Jesus himself.

-Robert Jesnon

Cultivate Thankfulness in your heart.

Press in for a God encounter.

Sow into your need