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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

**A1981 ~ Jesus Walks on Water.**

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*Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.*

Today's Bible Adventure is so well known that an English expression, "Walking on water," comes from this miraculous act by the Lord Jesus. It's used either as an example of being asked to do an impossible task or that someone has done a super-human effort resulting in everything turning out right for them.

After the 5,000 men plus women and children were fed by Jesus, the people were convinced that Jesus was certainly the prophet they'd been waiting for, and for so long. They wanted to take Jesus by force and make Him king at the height of His popularity. However at this time, Jesus sent His disciples to get into the boat and row across the lake to Capernaum. Jesus Himself sent the crowds away and went up into the hills to pray alone.

A storm had sprung up over the lake. The boat with the disciples by then was 3 to 4 miles from shore but they were having great difficulty with the wind and waves. They had rowed hard but they couldn't make any headway.

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DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound.](#)

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This miracle is recorded in Matthew 14, Mark 6 and John 6. The disciples had a hard time trying to go to the place Jesus had told them to. The wind and the waves were against them. In the fourth watch, about 3 am to 6 am, Jesus came to them walking on the sea. The disciples were terrified and screamed out in fear when they saw him, thinking he must be a ghost. But Jesus spoke to them and reassured them that it was Him. He called out, “Do not be afraid.”

Many times in the Bible Jesus had to calm His disciples and tell them not to be afraid. Fear can either be a bad thing or benefit to us. This God-given emotion can keep us from doing risky behaviour which might result in accident, injury or danger. But when fear is given into, it can become an all-controlling part of our minds and lives. Then it replaces our trust in God with doubts, nervous reactions and long-term, ill-health and unhappy characters.

There are few people who don't have some moments of fear in their lives, be it by rejection from family, criticism and persecution, or what might happen in the future, or danger from wild animals or storms. When we place our trust in the Lord Jesus and ask Him to forgive us for all of our sinful ways, we ask Him to be our Saviour and Lord. This includes being our protector. Fear will drive out our faith in Jesus if we let it. So just like the disciples fearing they would drown in the lake, we must urgently call out to Jesus to save us.

We are to remind ourselves that God is greater than the most severe threats in life. He promises to be always ready to help when we ask. In Deuteronomy, Chapter 31, just before the Israelites were to cross into the Promised Land, Moses said: “Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic ... for the Lord your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you.”

In John, Chapter 14, the Lord Jesus said: “I am leaving you with a gift – peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.” No matter how genuinely threatening your situation seems to be, God will still be with you. And even if it ends in death, God has not left you – instead, He has ushered you into His very presence.

There is a grand old hymn which says: “And should they take your life, wealth, name, child or wife, though these be all now gone, Yet still they naught have won: God’s kingdom ours remains.” No enemy or adversity can take away your most important blessings from God like your eternal salvation.

In the 1980s, teenagers discovered that they could get high by breathing in the fumes of an ingredient in spray cans containing household cleaners. The labels on the cans clearly warned of death or serious injury if the product was inhaled but some young people ignored it. So the manufacturer of the toxic cleaning products tried to think up ways of deterring young people from putting themselves at risk.

A lawyer acting for the manufacturer in lawsuits over the products suggested that teenagers worry more about how they look than death and injury. So the warning on the cans was changed to say that sniffing the product could cause hair loss or blemishes on the face. Although this wasn’t true, it did scare the target audience and no further cases were brought to court. What we fear controls us and these grow from our values about life.

When the disciples heard Jesus speak to them as He walked on the water towards them, they were no longer afraid. Why did Peter ask Jesus to prove Himself by allowing Peter to walk on the water to Him? Everyone in that boat had worked hard rowing for hours. Where did Peter get his extra energy from to desire such a risky thing as walking on water like his Master?

The books say that great things don't happen without risk. Those great in faith are risk takers. But taking risks without thoughtful consideration can also be foolish. Jesus never gave Peter any warnings. He just simply said, "Come."

Believers in Christ must take the risk of doing things God's way. When God asks you to follow Him, He often doesn't give you all the information about what'll happen. When you step out in faith, He gives guidance as you go. As an example, Moses risked his life by approaching Pharaoh and leading the Israelites out of captivity. Following God's will is not without risks, but there is no greater reward.

Peter understood that all he needed was the Lord's call and His will would be done. This is the basis of faith. We can do whatever the Lord commands yet dare not do anything that the Lord has not authorised. Faith comes by hearing the words of Christ. We walk by faith and not by sight. Colossians, Chapter 3, says: "Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

There is another aspect to fear we need to mention. Many learn the verse in Proverbs, Chapter 9, by heart: "Fear of the Lord is the foundation or beginning of wisdom." In Psalm 33, it says: "Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast."

Fearing God is not the same as being afraid of God. Being afraid of someone drives you away from that person. Instead, fearing God means being awed and amazed at His power and goodness. This fear draws us closer to Him and to the blessings He wants to give us. A healthy fear should drive us to God for forgiveness and help keep us understanding how important our relationship is with Him. This type of fear ultimately brings joy to our hearts.

God promised us in Isaiah, Chapter 41, with these words: “Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Don’t be discouraged for I am your God, I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.” The Lord Jesus certainly did this for Peter when he looked at the dangers around him rather than Jesus, and began to sink into the waves. Beware of big distractions when you are just about to do something for the Lord.

The next day’s events are listed in John, Chapter 6. Jesus was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. When the crowds of people couldn’t find Him where they had been the previous day, they crossed to the other side of the lake to see Him there. They asked Him how He got there. He didn’t answer their question but told them that they sought Him only because He had fed them. People often want Jesus to meet their physical needs but not their spiritual ones.

Missionaries in South East Asian countries tried to help the poor people in their areas of service by giving them food. But those who were fed soon learnt to come to church more for the food and not the worship service or teaching about Jesus. These people became known as ‘rice Christians’, meaning they weren’t really Christians at all but acted like ones to get their next bowl of rice.

The Lord Jesus told His listeners at the synagogue to seek the type of spiritual food which endures to everlasting life, which Jesus would give them because God the Father had set His seal on Him. They asked Him what they should do to do God’s will. Jesus told them to believe on Him because God had sent Him. Of course, the people then asked for a sign to prove who Jesus really was. Although they’d seen every sick person in whole villages healed by Jesus and many people fed, including themselves, they wanted further proof of His divine nature before they would believe He was from God.

The people who had been miraculously fed on the hillside the previous day wanted to be fed again the next day in another miraculous way. They spoke of the manna the Children of Israel had eaten daily while on their wilderness journey and gave credit to Moses for providing it. But the Lord Jesus gave the credit to God the Father instead for the manna. Jesus told them, “I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate manna in the desert but they died. But the bread that comes down from heaven is of such a kind that whoever eats it will not die.”

He further said, “The bread that I will give you is my flesh (or body), which I give so that the world may live.” This claim started an angry argument among the people listening to Him. They concluded that this teaching was too hard to understand. Jesus knew they were unhappy, so He said to them, “Does this make you want to give up? Suppose, then, that you should see the Son of Man (that is Jesus) go back up to the place where He was before? What gives life is God’s Spirit; human power is of no use at all. The words I have spoken to you bring God’s life-giving Spirit. Yet some of you do not believe.”

Disappointed that they weren’t going to be fed again and unable to accept Jesus’ teaching, many of His followers turned away and would no longer listen to Him. Jesus asked His disciples, “Do you also want to go away?” But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words of eternal life. And we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Although Jesus helped many people in many ways and did miraculous things like walk on water, He didn’t try to make people stay His followers.

If you don’t already know the reality of being a disciple of the Lord Jesus, He won’t force you to become one. He invites you to place your life in His hands but this decision is yours. If you’re not certain about who the Lord Jesus Christ was and is now, read through the Gospel of John to help you gain more understanding.

Jesus said in John, Chapter 10, Verse 10b: “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

*The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.*

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