



**When you can't see the way forward**

John 6:16-21



# Walking on Water

John 6:16-21

Have you ever been this **tired** before?





**Many of us have been here before:**

- We tried to do what's right
- Yet we still find ourselves in the storm
- And we cannot see the way forward

## Gospel according to John

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Miracles are signs.

They point to *something* or *someone*.

## **SERMON TOPICS in Feb-Mar 2026**

*7-8 February 2026*

**When Something is Missing**

*14-15 February 2026*

**When You Need a Miracle**

*21-22 February 2026*

**When You Feel Stuck**

*28 February-1 March 2026*

**When You are Facing Giants**

*7-8 March 2026*

**When All You See is Darkness**

*14-15 March 2026*

**When You Can't See a Way Forward**

*21-22 March 2026*

**Keys to Multiplication of Favour**

*28-29 March 2026*

**When It Seems Impossible**

*3 April 2026 - **The Price of Love***

*4 April 2026 - **The Case for Christ***

*5 April 2026 - **When All Seems Lost***

## SERMON TOPICS in Feb-Mar 2026

*7-8 February 2026*

Jesus can take what's ordinary and make it extraordinary.

*14-15 February 2026*

Jesus is not limited by distance or even death.

*21-22 February 2026*

Jesus can free us from a paralysed will.

*28 February-1 March 2026*

Jesus can overcome the giants before us.

*7-8 March 2026*

Jesus can open our spiritual eyes.

*14-15 March 2026*

Jesus can make a way forward.

*21-22 March 2026*

**Keys to Multiplication of Favour**

*28-29 March 2026*

**When It Seems Impossible**

*3 April 2026 - **The Price of Love***

*4 April 2026 - **The Case for Christ***

*5 April 2026 - **When All Seems Lost***

## John 6:16-21

- <sup>16</sup> Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea,  
<sup>17</sup> and after getting into a boat, they started to cross the sea to Capernaum.  
It had already become dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them.  
<sup>18</sup> The sea began to be stirred up because a strong wind was blowing.  
<sup>19</sup> Then, when they had rowed about three or four miles,  
they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat;  
and they were frightened.  
<sup>20</sup> But He said to them, "It is I, do not be afraid."  
<sup>21</sup> So they were willing to receive Him into the boat,  
and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

## Gospel of John: Jesus walking on water

- Happened after the feeding of the 5,000.
- The feeding of 5,000 is repeated in all 4 books.

## Gospel of John: Jesus walking on water

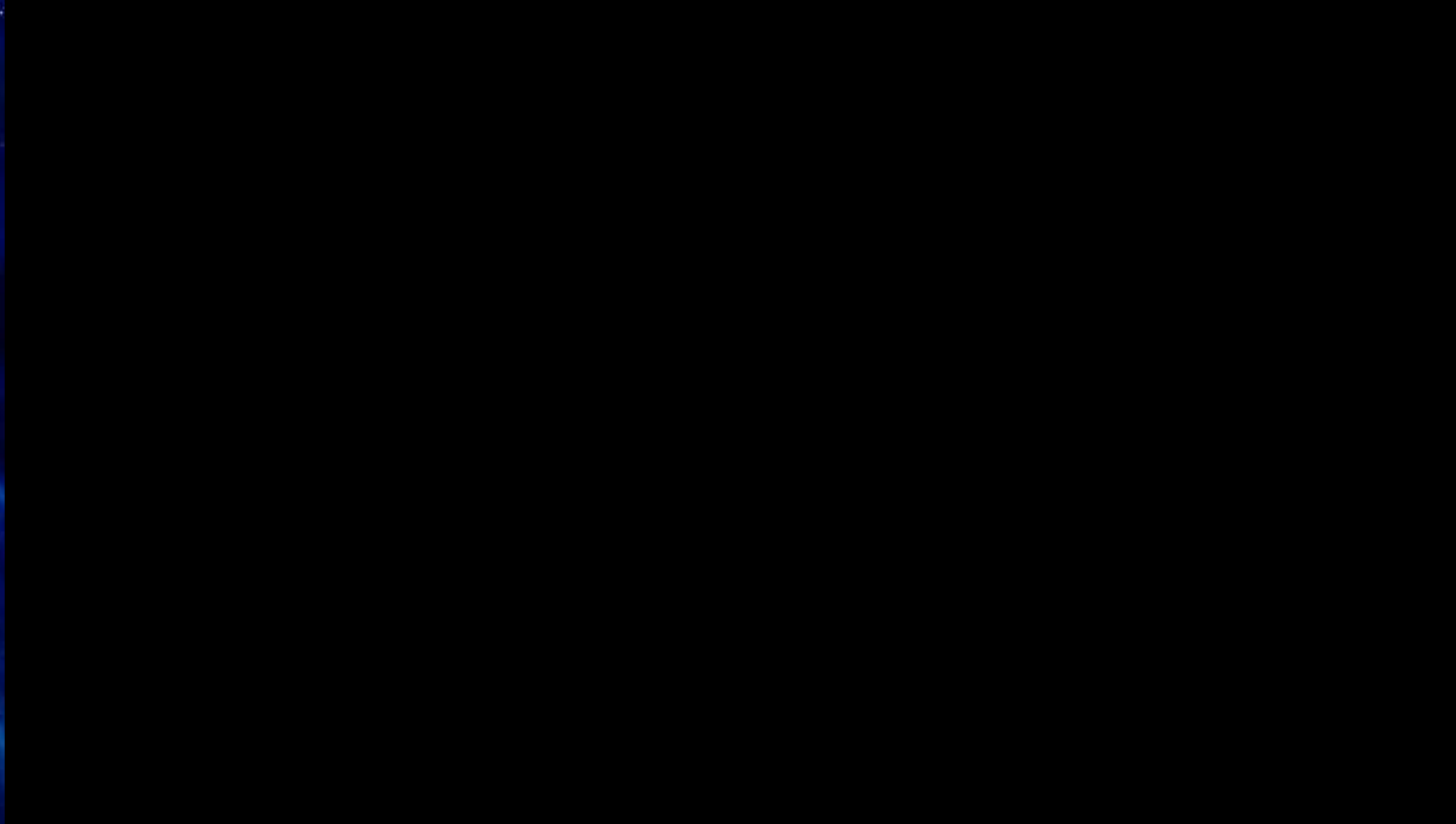
- In John 6, the people wanted to make Jesus king (earthly) by force. They saw Him only as a **physical** Messiah.
- He withdrew into the mountain.
- But He sent the disciples away by boat.

	<b>Matthew 14:22-33</b>	<b>Mark 6:45-52</b>	<b>John 6:16-21</b>
<b>After</b>	Feeding 5,000 <u>Disciples sent ahead</u>	Feeding 5,000 Jesus prays on mountain	Feeding 5,000 Crowd tried to make Him King
<b>Situation</b>	Early morning ( <u>3-6am</u> ), far from land	Night; struggling against wind	Dark, <u>3-4 miles out</u>
<b>Jesus</b>	Walks on the sea	Walks on the lake “intended to pass by them” (v48)	Walks on the sea; approaches the boat
<b>Disciples</b>	Afraid	Afraid	Afraid

## One miracle – three perspectives

<b>Matthew 14</b>	<b>Mark 6</b>	<b>John 6</b>
Peter walks on water	Disciples' hardened hearts	Boat immediately reaches the shore
Ends with worship: "Truly You are the Son of God"	Ends with amazement	Ends with Jesus entering the boat

Each Gospel highlights a different focus.  
Together, they complete the picture.



## John 6:16-17

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<sup>17</sup> and after getting into a boat, they started to cross the sea to Capernaum.  
It had already become dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them.

## Matthew 14:22-23

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

<sup>23</sup> After 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.

## Matthew 14:22-23

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

<sup>23</sup> After 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.

## Mark 6:51-52

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

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

## John 6:18-19

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<sup>17</sup> and after getting into a boat, they started to cross the sea to Capernaum.

It had already become dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them.

<sup>18</sup> The sea began to be stirred up because a strong wind was blowing.

<sup>19</sup> Then, when they had rowed about three or four miles,

they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat;

and they were frightened.

<sup>20</sup> But He said to them, "It is I, do not be afraid."

<sup>21</sup> So they were willing to receive Him into the boat,

and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

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## Matthew 14:25

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

**1<sup>st</sup> watch** → 6pm-9pm

**2<sup>nd</sup> watch** → 9pm-12 midnight

**3<sup>rd</sup> watch** → 12 midnight-3am

**4<sup>th</sup> watch** → 3am-6am

What do you think was going through their minds during those 6-12 hours of intense rowing?

Actual distance: **About 10km**  
Estimated time of arrival: **3 hours**  
Actual time taken: **6-12 hours**

Sources:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bethsaida#:~:text=De%20Situ%20Terrae%20Sanctae%2C%20a.50%20mi%20\(80%20km\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bethsaida#:~:text=De%20Situ%20Terrae%20Sanctae%2C%20a.50%20mi%20(80%20km))

<https://hermeneutics.stackexchange.com/questions/38975/boats-speed-in-jesus-days>



It is possible to feel that all you have done is  
*pointless, meaningless, fruitless* -  
and still be in the **WILL OF THE LORD**.

**Joseph**

Sold to  
Egypt

*Genesis 37:18-36*

**Daniel**

In the  
lion's den

*Daniel 6*

**Paul**

Journey to  
Rome

*Acts 27-28*

**Jesus**

Carrying the  
cross to  
Calvary

*John 19:16-28*

How do you think they felt as they went through  
all these difficult experiences?



All this is part of God's **sovereign** (*Boulema*) will.



## John 6:18-19

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## John 6:18-19

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<sup>19</sup> Then, when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat; and they were frightened.

## Why were they *frightened*?

Because what they were seeing was beyond human ability.  
No one can walk on water.

## John 6:18-19

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<sup>19</sup> Then, when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat; and they were frightened.

## What can we learn about Jesus?

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- He operated beyond the natural law.
- He was/is not limited by natural law.  
(no reference to Peter walking on water)



### Job 9:8

Who alone stretches out the heavens  
And tramples down the waves of the sea

### Psalms 77:19

Your way was in the sea  
And Your paths in the mighty waters,  
And Your footprints may not be known.

## John 6:20-21

<sup>20</sup> But He said to them, “It is I, do not be afraid.”

*Egō eimi;  
mē phobeisthe*

<sup>21</sup> So they were willing to receive Him into the boat,  
and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

*Egō eimi* (Greek) means *I AM*.

### **Exodus 3:14**

God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM”;  
and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

## John 6:20-21

<sup>20</sup> But He said to them, “It is I, do not be afraid.”  
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and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

*Egō eimi;  
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## *Egō eimi* (Greek)

The context suggests that Jesus’ deity is implied.

In John 6:19, the phrase ‘walking on the sea’ (περιπατοῦντα ἐπὶ τῆς θαλάσσης) is probably an allusion to God walking on the sea (περιπατῶν... ἐπὶ θαλάσσης ) in Job 3:8. Jesus’ use of ἐγὼ εἰμι and ‘do not be afraid’ seems to further draw attention to His deity.

- Gary Manning Jr (Professor of New Testament at Talbot School of Theology)

<https://www.biola.edu/blogs/good-book-blog/2015/does-i-am-always-refer-to-god-in-the-gospel-of-john>

## John 6:20-21

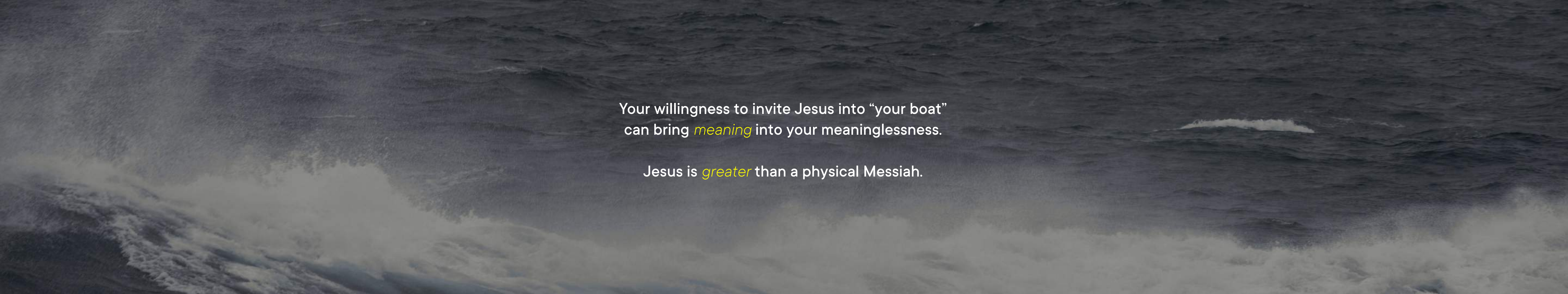
<sup>20</sup> But He said to them, "It is I, do not be afraid."

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and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

6 hours for 5 km vs 1 sec for 5 km

Can you see the miracle?

What is the lesson here?



Your willingness to invite Jesus into “your boat”  
can bring *meaning* into your meaninglessness.

Jesus is *greater* than a physical Messiah.

## John 6:16-21

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<sup>21</sup> So they were willing to receive Him into the boat,  
and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.



## Even when we are obeying the Lord...

- The journey can still be stormy
- Progress can feel slow
- His ways may surprise or even frighten us

## What this teaches us about Jesus

- He can bring us peace in the storm (*John 16:33*)

### **John 16:33**

These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace.  
In the world you have tribulation, but take courage;  
I have overcome the world.

## What this teaches us about Jesus

- He can bring us peace in the storm (*John 16:33*)
- His ways are higher than our ways (*Isaiah 55:8-9*)

### **Isaiah 55:8-9**

”For My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD.  
“For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
So are My ways higher than your ways  
And My thoughts than your thoughts.

## What this teaches us about Jesus

- He can bring us peace in the storm (*John 16:33*)
- His ways are higher than our ways (*Isaiah 55:8-9*)
- He often delivers us when we reach the limits of our strength (*2 Cor 12:9*)

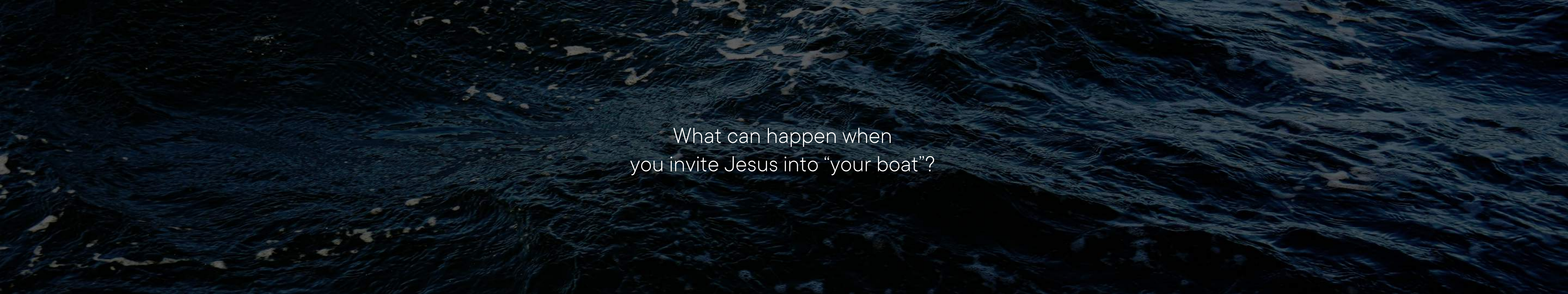
### **2 Corinthians 12:9**

And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weakness, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

## What this teaches us about Jesus

- He can bring us peace in the storm (*John 16:33*)
- His ways are higher than our ways (*Isaiah 55:8-9*)
- He often delivers us when we reach the limits of our strength (*2 Cor 12:9*)

Will you receive Him into your boat today?

The background of the image is a close-up, high-angle shot of dark blue water. The water's surface is covered in fine, intricate ripples and small waves, creating a textured, shimmering effect. The lighting is somewhat dim, giving the water a deep, almost blackish-blue hue in some areas, while other parts catch the light, showing a more vibrant blue. The overall mood is serene yet slightly mysterious.

What can happen when  
you invite Jesus into “your boat”?

The background of the entire image is a close-up, high-angle shot of dark blue water with fine, rhythmic ripples. The lighting is somewhat dim, creating a moody and contemplative atmosphere. The text is centered horizontally and vertically on the page.

Are you struggling to see  
anything positive in your “boat”?

Do you feel that all your efforts  
are **achieving nothing**?

Do you feel that everything is  
**meaningless, pointless, fruitless ...?**

**Invite Jesus into “your boat” today.**

The background of the image is a close-up, high-angle shot of dark blue water with fine, rhythmic ripples. The lighting is soft, creating a textured surface with subtle highlights and shadows. The text is centered in the middle of the frame.

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart  
And do not lean on your own understanding.  
In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He will make your paths straight.