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In Awe of Christ's Power

Definitions in **bold** letters are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition
or Roget's Thesaurus – **December 28, 2014**

Matthew 14:22-36

Introduction: Through the working of miracles, Jesus was fulfilling messianic prophecy; thus, the miracles confirmed that he was Israel's Messiah (Matt. 11:2-6). As such, the miracles also validated Jesus' teaching (c. John 3:2).

Matthew 11:2-6, Now when John had **heard** in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, And said unto him, Art thou he that **should come**, or do we look for another? Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and SEE: The **blind** receive their sight, and the **lame** walk, the **lepers** are **cleansed**, and the **deaf** hear, the **dead** are raised up, and the **poor** have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be **offended** in me.

John 3:2, The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, **Rabbi (my master [instructor])**, we know that thou art a **teacher** come from God: for no man can do these **miracles** that thou doest, except God be WITH him.

While the nation of Israel ultimately rejected Christ – even in the face of the miraculous works – certain individuals, especially his disciples, grasped what the **miracles** truly **revealed** about the Lord. When they did so, they responded in **humble** worship.
(Source: *The Bible Expositor and Illuminator, Union Press Publication-Christian Life Series*)

Matthew 14:17-22 ...they say unto him, We have here but **five loaves**, and **two fishes**. He said, Bring them hither to me. And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the **five loaves**, and the **two fishes**, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. And they did all eat, and were **filled**: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full. And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children. And straightway Jesus **constrained (necessitate--compel)** his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.

NOTE: Why did Jesus need to "**constrain**" the disciples, indicating that some definite resistance on their part was encountered? The key to this is in John's account where it is related that the multitude was about to take Jesus and **make him king by force**, a thing the disciples no doubt desired and would have abetted (aided) in every possible way if Jesus had not **ordered** them to the other side of the lake. Christ thus dispersed his own true followers, and then the great rabble. They were sent to the other Bethsaida, on the western side of Galilee; the Bethsaida they were leaving was a larger city, situated on the northeastern shore of Galilee, and called Bethsaida-Julius.

(Source: *Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bcc/*)

John 6:9-15, There is a lad here, which hath **five** barley loaves, and **two** small fishes: but what are they among so many? And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would. When they were **filled**, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. Therefore they gathered them together, and filled **twelve baskets** with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten. Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth **that prophet** that should come into the world. When Jesus therefore **perceived** that they would come and take him **by force**, to **make him** a **king**, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.

Thought 1. The prophet about which they spoke is written of in Deuteronomy 18. God spoke of raising up a prophet from among the Israelites "like" Moses, in whom he would put his words. And like Moses, God would work through him in doing miracles to help his people and at the same time confirm his ministry as being a prophet of the Most High God.

Deuteronomy 18:18-19, I will **raise** them up a **Prophet** from among their brethren, **LIKE** unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them **all** that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my **name (authority)**, I will require it of him.

Matthew 14:23, *And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a **mountain** apart to **PRAY**: and when the **evening** was come, he was there alone.*

Pray defined 4336, supplicate (petition [ask] with earnestness and submission; call to, call upon), **worship** (lift up the heart, revere, give thanks).

NOTE: Following so closely upon the **rejection** at Nazareth, this enthusiastic desire of a vast concourse of people to make Jesus king by force must have been a genuine **temptation** to Christ. Satan was renewing the temptation to take a short-cut to popular acclaim (approval, admiration). This is evident from the manner in which Jesus responded, namely, by going apart into the mountain, alone, to pray. Christ met every crisis of his life in exactly that way. The word "**even**," as used here, referred to the first even which began at **three o'clock** in the afternoon; the second even began at **six o'clock**. These first and second evens corresponded almost exactly to our afternoon and evening. (Source: Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bcc/)

Thought 1. As we know, during prayer, our Father often speaks to us, since he lives in our spirits, as he did Jesus. So, prayer is also mutual communication with our Father.

Matthew 14:24, *But the **SHIP** was now in the midst of the **sea**, tossed with **waves**: for the **WIND** was **contrary (antagonistic [opposing])**.*

NOTE: It will appear a little later that **Satan** was the instigator of that **storm**. Failing to induce Christ to accept the mantle of material kingship, the devil was of a mind to **drown** all his apostles in the sea! The contrary winds had prevented their successful crossing; and as late as the fourth watch of the night, they were still tossed by the angry seas about the point of no return, some **three miles** from land in either direction.

There appears to be a progressive design in our Lord's **schooling** of the Twelve. In Matthew 8, it was recorded that he was **asleep** in the stern of the ship during a storm; but

in this instance the disciples were alone. In that case, they had him on board and could arouse him in an emergency; but in this, Jesus was out of sight, and they were learning the hard way what it means to **walk by faith** and **not by sight**.

(Source: Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament classic.studydrive.org/com/bcc/)

Thought 1. When Adam disobeyed God and sinned, he gave the authority he'd received from God to Satan. Satan then became the "god of this world", and he does things of this sort and more in the earth. But, faith in God obligates him to help us in spite of Satan.

Genesis 1:26-28, And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: And let them have **dominion (rule [CONTROL, AUTHORITY])** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed Them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and **subdue it (keep under):** and have dominion over ...

Luke 4:5-6, And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this **power (authority)** will I give thee, and the **glory (honour)** of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4, But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the **god** of this world hath **blinded** the **minds** of them which believe not...

God defined 2316, god (prince [chief or ruler of either sex, In Scripture, this name prince is given to Satan, who is called the prince of this world, John 12., and prince of the power of the AIR, Eph.2.])

Matthew 14:25, And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

NOTE: Anciently the Jews divided the night into **three watches**, consisting of **four hours** each. The first watch is mentioned, Lamentations 2:19: the second, Judges 7:19; and the third, Exodus 14:24; but a fourth watch is not mentioned in any part of the Old Testament. This division the **Romans** had introduced in Judea, as also the custom of dividing the day into **twelve hours:** see John 11:9. The **first watch** began at six o'clock in the evening, and continued till nine; the **second** began at nine, and continued till twelve; the **third** began at twelve, and continued till three next morning; and the **fourth** began at three, and continued till SIX. It was therefore between the hours of

THREE and **SIX** in the **morning** that Jesus made his appearance to his disciples.

(Source: The Adam Clarke Commentary classic.studydrive.org/com/acc/)

NOTE: Walking on the sea. A manifest and wonderful **miracle.** It was a boisterous sea. It was in a dark night. The little boat was four or five miles from the shore, tossed by the billows. (Source: Barnes' Notes on the New Testament classic.studydrive.org/com/bnn/)

Thought 1. This miracle, like all of the miracles that are worked, was done by God, the Father, working through Jesus' faith to accomplish his will in the earth. The first thing of note is Jesus was anointed with the highest degree of anointing any human could possess. Scripture says he had it not "by measure." He also had the greatest of authority in the earth given to any human. Furthermore, he was authorized to give authority to those who would work with him as his apostles during his earthly ministry.

John 3:33-34, He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true. For he whom God hath **SENT** speaketh the words of God: for God **giveth not** the Spirit **by measure** unto **him**.

Matthew 10:1, And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them **power (authority)** against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal...

John 14:10 ...the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that **dwelleth IN me**, **HE doeth** the **works**.

Thought 2. Now, let's look at Mark's account to see something not mentioned by others.

Mark 6:48, And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, **walking** upon the sea, and **would have passed by them**.

NOTE: ...**would have passed them by** ... is another detail omitted by John, but it shows that Christ will always pass his disciples by unless they **call upon** him. (Source: Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bcc/)

Romans 10:12-13, For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall **call upon** the **name (authority)** of the Lord shall be **saved (deliver)**.

James 4:2 ...**ye have not**, because **ye ask not**.

Matthew 14:26, And when the disciples **saw** him **walking** on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a **spirit (spectre** [appearance of a person who is dead; a ghost]); and they **cried out** for FEAR.

NOTE: That the **spirits** of the **dead** might and **did appear**, was a doctrine held by the greatest and holiest of men that ever existed; and a doctrine which the cavaliers (one who find fault without good reason), free-thinkers and bound-thinkers, of different ages, have never been able to disprove. (Source: The Adam Clarke Commentary classic.studylight.org/com/acc/)

Thought 1. One scripture that comes to mind as proof of this doctrine is in Luke 9 where God granted an appearance of Moses, whose body he had buried. Deut. 34:5-6

Luke 9:30-31, And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were **Moses** and Elias: Who appeared in glory, and spake of his **decease** which he should accomplish...

Matthew 14:27, But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, **Be of good cheer**; it is I; be not afraid.

NOTE: Christ's coming to those **storm-tossed** disciples symbolizes the way he has often come to his troubled disciples in all ages, walking to them over life's troubled waters; and, as always, he may pass them by, unless they **cry out** and **call upon him** as did the apostles here. **Be of good cheer...** How grandly have those blessed words echoed down the centuries in men's hearts. Christ's holy religion is one that casts out fear. Fear not! That is the first and last commandment of **faith**. (Source: Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bcc/)

Matthew 14:28-29, And Peter answered him and said, Lord, **IF (forasmuch as** [because]) it be thou, **BID** me come unto thee on the water. And he said, **Come**. And when **Peter** was **come down** out of the ship, he **walked** on the **water**, to go to Jesus.

NOTE: We have no idea what prompted Peter to ask such a question, but **his faith** in Jesus is remarkable. He really responded to Jesus' invitation and got out of the boat. He walked on the water to go to Jesus. (Source: David Guzik's Commentaries on the Bible classic.studylight.org/com/guz)

Thought 1. Remember, God worked the miracle of Jesus walking on water to accomplish his purpose and will in the lives of the people seeing it, and reading about it. So, he leads Jesus to command Peter to come onto the stormy waters and walk on them by faith in him and in Jesus. As we see, there have been two men to walk on water!

Matthew 14:30, But when he **SAW** the WIND **boisterous**, he was **AFRAID**; and beginning to SINK, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

NOTE: Peter succeeded at first, but then he failed. He did actually **walk on the sea**; but when he took **his eyes off** the **Saviour** and began to consider (LOOK AT) the difficulties, he began to SINK. What a lesson shines in this. As long as people have **respect** unto the Lord and **behold him** in **all their ways**, they go forward...

(Source: Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bcc/)

Thought 1. This is one of the best examples of how a person should walk by faith, and what NOT to do, that's found in what's called the New testament! It makes very clear the impact FEAR has on us, hindering God, and giving Satan place (permission) in our lives. What happened to Job when he got into fear is the best in the Old Testament. Although, some people believe God gave Satan permission to do what happened to him.

Think about it! If Jesus, or Peter, had believed God would give them into Satan's power like what's believed about Job, there is no way they would be thinking about walking on the sea in a storm! Because, what if God decided to test them by giving them into Satan's power!? But that's not his character. Like Peter, Job feared, and what he feared occurred.

Job 3:25, For the thing I greatly **FEARED (be afraid)** is come upon me.

1John 4:18 ...fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

Proverbs 29:25, The **fear (anxiety)** of man bringeth a **snare (a TRAP)**: but whoso putteth his TRUST in the Lord shall be **safe**.

Ephesians 4:26-27, Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: neither GIVE place (a spot, licence [PERMISSION to act]) to the **DEVIL**.

Jonah 2:8, They that **observe (regard [look on])** lying vanities (emptiness) forsake their own mercy.

Hebrews 12:3, For **consider** (view attentively) him that endured such **contradiction** of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and **faint** (SINK into dejection [depression]; to lose courage or spirit.) in your minds.

Matthew 14:31-33, And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of **little faith**, wherefore didst thou **doubt (FEAR, waver in opinion)?** And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased. Then they that were in the ship came and **worshipped him**, saying, Of a TRUTH thou art the Son of God.

NOTE: They moved quickly from fearing the storm to worshipping Jesus. This was a logical reaction considering the **power** Jesus showed in walking on the water, and the love He showed in taking care of a sinking Peter.

(Source: David Guzik's Commentaries on the Bible classic.studylight.org/com/guz)

Thought 1. When God's power, authority, sacredness, or sublimeness (that which is extraordinary) is clearly seen and valued, it produces reverence for him and his servant.

Matthew 14:34-36, And when they were gone over, they came into the land of Gennesaret. And when the men of that place had knowledge of him, they sent out into all that country round about, and brought unto him all that were diseased; And besought him that they might only **touch** the **hem** of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.