

# Why Do We Doubt?

Matthew 14:22-33

## Context: "Immediately" following an incredible miracle

Before the miraculous feeding of the multitudes (Matthew 14:17b-18; 20b-21), Jesus had sought \_\_\_\_\_ in the aftermath of the death of John the Baptist. (Mt. 14:13). Now after a full day with the crowds, Jesus dismisses them – along with his disciples – to be \_\_\_\_\_ with the Father in \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>22</sup> Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. <sup>23</sup> And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone... (Matthew 14:22-23)

## The awe-inducing site of the Great I Am

The disciples reluctantly head across the Sea of Galilee until they are at its midpoint (Mark 6:47). Facing a fierce headwind that has battered their boat, these exhausted men see *something* in the early hours of the morning they will never forget:

Matthew 14: 24-32

Jesus has been declaring and demonstrating that the \_\_\_\_\_ has come and that He is the \_\_\_\_\_!

He healed innumerable people of their diseases. (Mt. 4:23-25; 8:1-17; 9:1-30; 12:9-16)

He calmed a raging storm. (Mt. 8:23-27)

He delivered the possessed of their demons. (Mt. 8:28-34; 9:32-34; 12:22-30)

He raised a dead girl to life. (Mt. 9:18-26)

He fed a multitude. (Mt. 14:13-21)

And now he walks on water and enables Peter to do the same.

*And all this proves what?*

*The "terrifying site" of the disciples invokes the "great site" of Exodus 3:3.*

*And the "IT IS I" statement of Jesus matches the "I AM" of Exodus 3:14!*

Everything in the encounter points to this shocking revelation: Jesus is proclaiming that He is \_\_\_\_\_!

So, if Jesus is the Christ – "very God of very God" as the Nicene Creed states – **Why then do we doubt?**

## 5 big reasons:

1) We are \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ is counter to \_\_\_\_\_, which is necessary for \_\_\_\_\_.

2) We \_\_\_\_\_ Him, but we don't \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

We don't trust in \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. We trust in \_\_\_\_\_ we have a \_\_\_\_\_ with.

3) Our natural tendency is \_\_\_\_\_.

Since faith is displayed in \_\_\_\_\_, the real issue is \_\_\_\_\_, not "\_\_\_\_\_".

4) Faith – by its very nature – is \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_.

Unless we \_\_\_\_\_ our faith, we cannot expect it to \_\_\_\_\_, much less \_\_\_\_\_.

5) We haven't \_\_\_\_\_ to trust Him because we've never "stepped out" of the boat.

The more we experience \_\_\_\_\_, the more faith we \_\_\_\_\_!