

## **When God Shows Up: Seven Miracles in John**

Lesson 5

John 6:16-21

June 12, 2022

### **Bare-Foot Waterskiing**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Rivers and lakes are modern man's destinations for fun that include piloting canoes and paddleboards. In Jesus' time, a body of water was a fisherman's place to work, not to play. Yet, might it have also been a site of relaxation?

That may have been the disciples' motive when they "set off across the lake" (John 6:17) because not one of them said, "Let's go a-fishing." Perhaps they needed time to unwind after a busy afternoon of serving food to thousands of people.

Why then did they not insist that Jesus accompany them during this respite and relaxation? Perhaps there was no opportunity to ask Him before He hurried off to a mountain where He could avoid the persistent crowd (John 6:15). Once by Himself, He would pray, and as was His habit when praying, He could be there all night!

But not this night. He came late, unannounced, an apparition in the eyes of the disciples, and in an astonishing act, attempted to impress upon their minds a truth that some were slow to accept.

***Memory verse: "But He said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid." —John 6:20***

Pray, and read John 6:16-21. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

**OBSERVATION: What does the passage say?**

1. The disciples boarded a boat on the Sea of Galilee, planning to sail to what town? (John 6:17)
2. When the disciples first stepped onto the boat, the sea was calm. What caused the waters to grow turbulent? (John 6:18)
3. How far had they rowed before they finally saw Jesus? Why were they frightened when they saw Him? (John 6:19)
4. What did Jesus say to allay their fear? (John 6:20)
5. What effect did Jesus' remark have upon those in the boat? (John 6:21)

## **INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?**

1. Why did Jesus choose to stay on a mountain while His disciples embarked on a short cruise?  
(John 6:15, 18:36)
  
2. John 6:17 suggests that Jesus might have agreed to join them in the boat. When He didn't arrive as darkness came, why would they not have returned to the mountain to find Him? (Luke 5:16, 6:12)
  
3. What was Jesus trying to teach the disciples when He did not approach the boat until it had sailed over the water three or four miles? (Matthew 14:33; Mark 4:40)

4. What did Jesus hope to achieve with the disciples by walking on water? (Mark 6:52, 8:17-18)
5. John does not say what the disciples' verbal response was after Jesus said, "It is I; don't be afraid" (John 6:20). Half-numbed by this experience, what might one or all of them have replied?

**APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?**

1. Jesus told His disciples, "It is I; don't be afraid." He is also directing that command to us when fear strikes. In what way can you demonstrate your trust in His command?

