

## **The Wednesday Word, April 25, 2018: The Man Who Walked on Water**

God moves in a mysterious way  
His wonders to perform;  
He plants His footsteps in the sea  
And rides upon the storm.  
William Cowper

Matthew 14: 25-27

Some years ago in India, a noted exponent of yoga claimed he would walk upon water. Six hundred spectators came to observe him perform this feat and paid good money just to watch.

The Yogi warmed up by swallowing what he said were tacks and nitric acid. And then in order to warm his feet, walked over some hot embers. Then he climbed to the top of a steel tank filled with water, tried to stand on top of the water and sank immediately to the bottom.

Walking on water? Impossible!!..well almost.

Do you remember the story of Matthew 14?

Christ's disciples were out on the lake struggling in the midst of a tempest. The once calm sea had turned to a boiling cauldron. They were in distress, and here comes the Master to their rescue.

Look at Him, Master of Land and Sea ... Here He comes, walking on the waves. Look at him. Observe His regal bearing. Look at Him with the wind in His hair. Look at Him planting His footsteps on the water. Look at Him, His garments billowing back, ...What majesty!

What a demonstration of Deity.

Some hours before these events transpired, Jesus had sent His disciples across the lake in a boat while He retired to pray. But when the disciples were in the middle of the sea, a storm broke out. The disciples were in deep, deep trouble and Jesus came walking to them.

This is amazing ... how did He know the disciple's location? It was pitch black. There would have been no visibility. It was the Fourth Watch...after 3 AM. Despite this, Jesus walked straight out to them, in the middle of the lake, in complete darkness.

Not surprisingly, the disciples are in shock and horror. They think they are seeing a ghost. But their horror soon turns to Hallelujahs when they hear the Master say, "It is I; be not afraid."

What Jesus literally said is, "Don't be afraid, I Am." He used the name for Yahweh. He claimed to be the 'I Am' to identify Himself. What He told them was, 'I am GOD the Most Holy and Only One.'

Walking on water is spectacular but that's not the point we want to take away from this. The point is that it is the divine prerogative of Yahweh alone to walk on water. Job 9:8 says; "He alone spreads out the heavens and treads upon the waves of the sea."

Yahweh alone treads upon the sea.

Jesus walked on water.

Therefore, Jesus is Yahweh!

Think about it, when's the last time you saw anyone walk on water that wasn't frozen? Indeed, the possibility of such a thing as a person walking on water is non-existent. I've read that the Egyptian hieroglyphic for 'impossibility' is a man walking on waves. Even Neptune, the Roman God of the Sea, was never depicted as walking on water. This would have been too great a feat for Him so instead of walking, he swam.

Many of us who have grown up knowing about the events in Christ's life can easily miss their significance. We are not surprised when we see Jesus demonstrating His power and majesty because, after all, that's the kind of thing He does. However, one of the reasons He did these wonderful things was to demonstrate that He was God in flesh appearing!

When it came to crossing the Red Sea, God opened the water for Moses.

When it came to crossing the Jordan River, God opened the waters for Joshua.

But when it came to Himself, God just walked over the water like it was a paved road. If Jesus had split the water, we would have seen that he was a great prophet but since he walked on water, we see that He, in fact, is God.

And that's the Gospel Truth!