

How to Walk on Water

Mathew 14:22-33

20 in our series "Jesus Stories"

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Prayer

Lord, we ask that you would help us to see you. Jesus, you are the Word of the Father. We pray that you would help us to hear you. We pray that you would help us to preach. We ask it in Jesus' name, through the power of your Spirit, Amen.

Message

Water Walking Video:

[Young men from all over the world, with all different types of accents are sharing about the sport of water walking, while footage of them preparing for their water walks is shown.]

Young man 1: A few people have tried it. Nobody has ever managed to get anywhere close to what we got to today!

Young man 2: You have to believe you can do it. It's not, like, impossible.

Young man 1: There have been a few people who have been sort of following us.

Young man 2: Me, my boots and I are gonna make it.

Young man 1: I definitely think it's gonna be the next big thing. (Adventurous music plays as footage of numerous attempts of water walking is shown)

Young man 3: It's a new sport that hasn't existed before.

Young man 2: You have to run very fast on the water.

Young man 3: Obviously the first step is the most important one when we discovered: "Oh my God! Jesus! We're going one step, two steps, three steps!"

[Footage of a small Jesus doll that is hanging from the car of one of these guy's rearview mirror is show.]

Young man 1: It actually takes a lot of practice and focus. I think if you don't actually believe you're gonna walk on that water, it's not gonna happen for you!

[Footage is shown of one of the young men running super fast and walking about twelve steps, above water, into the lake. His friends enthusiastically cheer him on!]

I love that video. I think I showed it to you once before. Those guys have actually developed waterproof shoes and everything. It would be really awesome to walk on water, wouldn't it?

Today we're looking at the iconic story of Peter walking on the water. I think we'd all like to walk on water...But, except for the guys in that video and some magicians in Vegas, and not counting ice, the only people I know of that were ever said to have walked on water were Jesus and Peter.

And water walking would've come in handy later on, like when Paul got shipwrecked in Acts 27 or when you try to witness at a party: "Oh yeah, can Buddha do this?"

Water walking would be sweet! Yet only once does someone, other than Jesus, walk on water and then for only a few moments. So maybe the point isn't simply walking on water, but walking somewhere else without sinking into something else.

You know, the Bible is full of stories of God taking His children for a walk—a journey. Abraham walks through the Wilderness to the Promised Land. The children of Abraham walk through the Red Sea and the Wilderness to the Promised Land. The Jews get exiled and are promised a return to the Promised Land, a walk through a wilderness of persecution to a New Jerusalem and an eternal kingdom.

Seventy years ago, many of them walked through places like Auschwitz and Dachau. You know, we have a hard time believing that God is powerful enough to make us walk on water. But we really have a hard time believing that God could walk us through something like Dachau or Auschwitz.

About twelve years ago, I remember sitting at the Chart House on Lookout Mountain with my two favorite living Christian speaker/authors in the world, Philip Yancey and Tony Campolo. Tony is always looking to get a rise out of people, but at one point, I remember him getting frustrated with me and saying, "Well, Peter, Go to Auschwitz, stand there like I did and tell me that God's in control, that God is sovereign!"

He has a great point.

How do you walk through a place like Auschwitz, keep your faith, and not sink into hell?
How do you walk through a divorce, death of a loved one or massive personal failure and not sink into hell?

Elie Wiesel was in Auschwitz. One of the most challenging things I've ever read comes from his book *Night*. In it he describes an experience in which he was forced to watch the execution of three fellow prisoners, one of them a young boy whom he calls the "sad little angel."

He writes:

The three victims mounted together onto the chairs. The three necks were placed at the same moment within the nooses. "Long live liberty!" cried the two adults. But the child was silent. "Where is God? Where is He?" someone behind me asked. At a sign from the head of the camp, the three chairs tipped over. Total silence throughout the camp.

On the horizon, the sun was setting . . . We were weeping. Then the march past began. The two adults were no longer alive. Their tongues hung swollen, blue-tinged. But the third rope was still moving; being so light, the child was still alive . . . For more than half an hour he stayed there, struggling between life and death, dying in slow agony under our eyes. And we had to look him full in the face. He was still alive when I passed in front of him. His tongue was still red, his eyes not yet glazed.

Behind me, I heard the same man asking "Where is God now?" And I heard a voice within me answer him, "Where is He? Here He is – He is hanging here on this gallows. . ."

Elie Wiesel lost his faith, at least for a time, while in Auschwitz. And to lose your faith is to sink into despair, the kind of despair that gripped the heart of his Nazi guards.

Well, how do you walk on water, whether that's physical water or the very abyss of hell?

In Mathew 14:21, Jesus feeds the five thousand and the disciples must be thinking, "Wow, from here on out it's gonna be smooth sailing."

Mathew 13:22

Immediately, he [forced] the disciples to get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was a long way from the land beaten [in the Greek tormented] by the waves, for the wind [violent wind] was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night [midnight] he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them saying, "Take heart; it is I Do not be afraid." [literally: "Courage. I AM. Fear not."] And Peter answered him, "Lord if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

So how do you walk on water?

How To Walk On Water:

Well if scripture is our guide, it seems to me that you need 7 things:

1. You need water, more specifically, a stormy sea. As soon as the disciples thought, "This will be smooth sailing," Jesus literally forced them to get in the boat and sail into a storm without Him. (I think the modern American church does a tremendous disservice to people when we imply that obedience to Jesus means smooth sailing and never feeling alone.)

Jesus literally forces them to get into the boat and He commands them to sail into a dark stormy sea without Him. In Matthew 8, He went with them – remember? Now, He commands them to go without Him, but maybe He can see them from the mountain? When night falls, all hell breaks loose. And remember, that for the Jews, the sea was hell. It was the realm of chaos, demons and the dead.

I suppose that's why they thought Jesus was a ghost (a *phantasma* in Greek). Peter's given name was Simon Bar Jonah. It means "son of Jonah" and the Bible refers to the belly of the beast, in the depths of the sea as *sheol*, or hell.

According to Scripture, we all live and walk on the skin of hell, for *hades* is under our feet. Well, maybe you feel like you're walking through hell, and you're really confused because you thought you were obeying Jesus. You wonder, "What's wrong?" But maybe what's "wrong" is what's right. And He's going to teach you to walk on water. Maybe you think, "Well, I was disobedient. I caused the storm – I sinned." Well, confess your sin and now it's no longer your storm, but His storm, and He's going to teach you to walk on water. So don't worry about storms.

How To Walk On Water:

1. You need a stormy sea.
2. You need a boat.

To learn to walk on water

1. You need stormy seas, and
2. You need a boat.

Jesus walked from shore, but Peter walked from the boat. The boat was very likely a “Peter built” (You’ve wondered where that company started). I’m thinking it was a Peter built boat.

[Image of a 1st century fishing boat]

Like this 1st century fishing boat that archaeologists recently discovered in the Sea of Galilee.

Peter was a fisherman and if he didn’t build the boat, he built his life and a livelihood around that boat. God has all of us build a boat. It’s what you can do. It’s your accomplishments, your work, your career. God has each of us built a boat and then he commands us to sail it into chaos. In other words, We’re born, we build, and then we die.

In Christian History, the church is often depicted as a boat. It’s depicted as this thing that people build. This thing built with human ingenuity and effort – an institution or building that holds disciples and protects them from the storms of hell.

In 2004, I was pastoring in a truly wonderful brand new six million dollar boat. We had three services and a few thousand people attending on a regular basis. One Sunday, my wife told me that she looked up and saw Jesus. He smiled and said, “Are you ready?” After the service several people, out of the blue, said, “Are you ready?”

Now Susan has a particular gifting that over the years, I’ve learned to trust.) So, I said, “Ready for what?” And she didn’t know. A few weeks later she prayed, “Jesus, you don’t have to tell me, but you asked ‘Are we ready?’ Well, are we ready for what?” She told me that she heard Him answer with excitement and joy!! “Are you ready to get out of the boat?” It wasn’t long after that that the wind began to blow. I sat in my office, one day and thought, “Good Lord! I think we’re sailing into the perfect storm!”

Kristen Michas, from our prayer team, sent me an email saying “Peter I saw a wave coming and it will wash you right out of the boat.” I don’t think I was ready to get out of the boat. . .

Well, anyway,

How To Walk On Water:
1. You need a stormy sea.
2. You need a boat.
3. You need failure.

1. You need a storm.
2. You need a boat, and...
3. You need failure.

Actually I think you need a boat because you need to see the boat fail. The boat was Peter’s knowledge, Peter’s work, Peter’s control, and it was literally being “tormented” by the sea, and about to fail.

Now the self cannot fail by trying to fail, for then the self has succeeded at being a failure, which really isn't failure. In other words, laziness is not the failure of the self. Laziness is the stubborn assertion of the self, perhaps, terrified to try, for it's terrified to fail. And yet, the self needs to fail. The self needs to build a boat, needs to see it fail, for when we fail, we're ready to see Jesus.

So, you can't make yourself fail, but don't worry, God can make you fail. God can provide one hell of a storm.

See? Unless the storm is big enough to sink your boat, you really don't need a Savior. And if you think you don't need a Savior, you probably won't look for Jesus, hear Jesus, or ever step out of the boat and walk on water.

How To Walk On Water:

1. You need a stormy sea.
2. You need a boat.
3. You need failure.
4. You need to see Jesus.

4. You need to see Jesus.

But what does that mean? I'm not like my wife. I've never had a vision. I'm a sceptic by nature and a scientist by training, so how do I see Jesus? Well, Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." Scripture says, "God is Love." And Jesus is the Word of Love, the Logos of love. Jesus is truth and Jesus is Love.

Well, have you ever been in a stormy situation where you think you see the truth. But if you choose the truth – it looks like you'll have to abandon your boat? So the choice is between truth and the boat.

Or maybe you see the way of love, but if you choose love – it looks like you may just sink the boat? A choice between the logic of love and the boat.

Well now, what is the logic of love? What is the truth?

It's the judgment of God – It's Jesus.

And What is the boat?

The boat is your own judgment. It's the life that you have constructed with your experience and the knowledge you have taken. So you think: "If I nail this thing to this wood, I can build my boat and use my boat to save myself from the storm and not sink into hell." That's your boat.

You know, people sacrifice truth and love to build their boats and save their boats, like, all the time. But if you sacrifice your boat for truth and love, people will think you're crazy. That's

because they think boats are real – (maybe even god), but truth and love are just an illusion . . . a phantom.

Understand that at first, Jesus will look like a phantom. You know a lot of folks (including Christian folks) think that love is just a feeling, or a chemical in your brain, and that truth is largely a phantom or illusion. They'll say, "Look now, reality is that stormy sea, so what matters is our boat and building better boats, better churches, better families, better businesses, better governments."

And now please understand, nothing's wrong with boats. . . In fact, God commands us to build boats. It's just that if you idolize boats, you'll never walk on water . . . at least not until God sinks your boat. But if you surrender the boat, you won't be in it the day it's finally laid to rest, six feet under the surface of the earth in hades.

Well, we think our boat is solid and real, while truth and love are only phantoms.

In verse 27, the disciples cry out in fear, yelling, "It's a phantom," and Jesus calls out saying, "Be of good cheer, take heart. *I AM—Ego Eimie.*" That's not a normal Greek construction. It means, *I AM* and *I AM* is the Name of God. *I AM* speaks all things into existence with His Word.

Nothing, absolutely nothing, - not water, not waves, not boats, nor anything in all creation is more solid or real than *I AM*. *I AM* is love and His Word is truth. *I AM* speaks and creation happens. So Peter calls out, "If it's you, command me. Speak me into existence. Speak my faith into existence. Speak my new man into existence."

You know I don't think the angels were impressed in the least that Jesus walked on water. But Scripture indicates that they are terribly impressed with faith in people like Peter and how that faith gets into people like Peter.

So, 4. You need to see Jesus.

And I should tell you: He's often standing in the place you're most terrified to look. He's standing in hell – your hell. That's why He sailed you out onto that raging sea in the first place.

I think this story is so real to me because for about fifteen years, Susan and I routinely prayed for a friend who had been ritually abused since she was a little girl. It's very hard for me to believe, but I know what I saw – time and time again.

I would usually get a frantic call around midnight when our friend was being tormented by demons – demons that would manifest and seize control of her body. Almost always, the Lord would have us lead her in prayer, back to a hellish memory, in which He would reveal Himself. My wife would usually see the memory in a vision and then, along with our friend, see Jesus appear in that place. The entire battle was really (and quite simply) to get our friend to look at Jesus, for when she saw Jesus, in her hell—in her suffering, she'd hear Jesus and obey Jesus and the evil one would lose all his power.

I've had that experience with others on several occasions, but for fifteen years on a regular basis with this friend. And so for fifteen years, I often found myself walking into hell in the middle of the night and there I'd meet Jesus – Not in the boat, but walking on the sea. There I saw His Glory in hell – my friend's hell. He would reveal His glory. She'd surrender to His Glory. The storm would stop and the demons would flee. He would make all things new and I would never be the same.

Ten years ago, I went to Auschwitz, after I had spoken in the Czech Republic.



I stood in this gas chamber.



And this crematorium.
I took these pictures.



This is a pile of thousands of shoes – all different, like the people that wore them.

I remember saying, “Thank you Lord, that this memorial is here.” For if people believe it could happen to six million, maybe they’d believe it could happen to my friend and that it happened to you.



I walked through these barracks.



I crawled in these bunks where God’s chosen people slept six to a bunk.



I stood in Auschwitz and I remember thinking, “He was here.”

“He was here, He was here, He was here. And He even takes his chosen people (people like you and people like me). He takes us to places like this to show us something.”

The man behind Elie Wiesel said, “Where is God now?” And a voice within answered, “Where is He? Here He is. He is hanging here on this gallows. . .”

In Greek you might use the word *Skulon*, translated *gallows, timber, tree, or cross*. Do you understand? God has us walk through this hellish world to show us something. It’s not easy to look at and many find the offense too much to bear. It is God’s chosen one hanging on a tree. It’s God’s heart suffering for each one of us. He suffered in that Jewish boy. He even suffered in the Nazi guards. He bore the sins and griefs of this entire God-damned world. We’re in this world to see Jesus Christ and Him crucified. No one gets crucified in heaven. We must come to see it here [Peter stretches his arms out as he stands in front of the cross], and it turns into heaven.

We must see his sufferings and taste his Sufferings in order to share His joy, for sorrow turns into joy. Truth in love, crucified upon our tree of knowledge conquers the power of hell, makes us in the image of God and sets us free to walk anywhere on anything, including the head of the ancient serpent.

The angels were unimpressed that Jesus could walk on water. But, all creation will never cease to be impressed at the Slaughtered Lamb, standing on the throne of God, having triumphed over all the powers of hell.

4. We need to see Jesus.

How To Walk On Water:

1. You need a stormy sea.
2. You need a boat.
3. You need failure.
4. You need to see Jesus.
5. You need to hear Jesus.

5. We need to hear Jesus. As Jesus hangs on the tree in our hell, he cries, "Father forgive them" And who is them? It's Romans, it's Jews, it's Nazi's and it's us. He cries, "Father forgive them" and he had already said, "Come to me . . . and learn from me. Take my yoke upon you."

Ten years ago, what had at one time seemed only to be a phantom became more solid than my boat—that is—I saw that Jesus was outside of the boat and not just outside of the boat. He had descended into hell to set the captives free, for when he said, "Father forgive them," he didn't mean only the people in the boat (for there was no boat). He meant all the sons of Adam and daughters of Eve. He meant Roman Centurions, and Nazi guards, and me, and unbelievers like Elie Wiesel, even people that had sunk beneath the waves, for He came to seek and to save the *perished— apallolas, the lost.*

I saw that Jesus is not stuck in the boat or the walls of some institution. Jesus is not limited by what the institutional church can or cannot do. Jesus is not the property of the boat (the boat is the property of Jesus.) Jesus is not limited to the confines, or walls, of a boat. And that is absolutely wonderful news. Unless, of course, you're in the business of buying and selling boats.

Seven years ago, the institutional church said, "Peter, you must publicly confess that you believe there are some people that cannot be saved." (Which means Jesus cannot save them.) And I felt Jesus asking me, "So, Peter, will you choose the truth, not just some theological proposition out there, but the truth in your own heart – will you be honest? Will you choose the truth or the boat?"

You've all been in that situation and God asks, "Will you choose your judgment, the way you think you hold your life together – your success, your honor, your glory – your pride? Will you choose your judgment or my judgment? His name is Jesus. Choose Jesus, for He has chosen you.

5. You need to listen to Jesus.

How To Walk On Water:

1. You need a stormy sea.
2. You need a boat.
3. You need failure.
4. You need to see Jesus.
5. You need to hear Jesus.
6. You need to step out of the boat.

6. You need to get out of the boat, when He calls - *when* He calls. In other words, don't leave your church, close your business and abandon your family. Don't abandon the boat unless you hear Him calling out on the waves.

Remember, He likes boats. He's slept in this boat (Matthew 8). He's preached to the crowds from Peter's boat (Luke 5). He'll command Peter to catch fish from this boat (John 21). And after He's walked with Peter on the water, He'll get back into the boat.

He likes boats. He's just not limited to boats and He doesn't want us to worship boats. Actually, His people are the boat – the true boat, not the institutional church, but His body the church. And maybe that's why the church is most vibrant in countries where big institutional boats are illegal. The church isn't really a boat. She's a body walking on water.

Well, in 2007, I got out of the boat, or maybe I was washed out of the boat. (I'm not sure.) Many of you were as well. . . . And now the Sanctuary is a boat. It's a smaller boat and this boat can go places the old boat could not go. God loves this boat, and I really thing He wants us to care for this boat, because I think He wants us to sail this boat where other boats will not sail. "To boldly go where no boat has gone before!" (If necessary).

So, I'm so very grateful for Kimberly Weynen, our Program Director, who helps all of us to be coordinated and connected, and for Frances Forgione, our Pastor of Congregational Care, who keeps the crew healthy, and for Michael and the Worship Team, who hoist the sails into the wind, and for DeeDee Reinke, who manages all our provisions, and Susan, who cleans the ship in more ways than one, and Angie and Laurie, who nurture our youngest sailors and our board, and deacons, and committees, and groups. We need to care for the boat, and I believe I'm called to captain the boat, but I also believe I'm called to get out of the boat, and I think you're called to get out of the boat. I mean, we're supposed to walk the message of God's relentless grace out unto the sea and into the gates of hell.

And that's why I'm excited about you going to work, going to school, walking into your storm, believing God is better than you thought, the love of Jesus is deeper than you know, and the Spirit is everywhere working the wonders of mercy. I'm excited about Downside Up, that we're taking the message beyond our boat, and I'm excited that the board is talking about sending me, and the message, on little walks beyond these walls. Well, this is a boat, and you each have a boat and you built the boat.

6. Get out of the boat

How To Walk On Water:

1. You need a stormy sea.
2. You need a boat.
3. You need failure.
4. You need to see Jesus.
5. You need to hear Jesus.
6. You need to step out of the boat.
7. You need to stop trying to walk on water
and just think about Jesus.

7. Don't think about walking on water. Don't think about 1. The storm, 2. The boat, 3. Your failure, or even 4. Your ability to see Jesus, or 5. Your ability to hear, or 6. Getting out of the boat. Just think about Jesus, the Jesus you know, the truth you know, the love you know.

Did you notice, Peter walked on water when he forgot about the water? In fact, I think he forgot about himself. He lost himself thinking about Jesus. Peter walked on water (7.) when he stopped trying to walk on water and just got excited to see Jesus. You'll walk on water once your heart is set on Jesus. If I've ever walked on water, I imagine it was on of those nights, praying for my friend, because there's nothing quite as glorious as Jesus showing up in hell.

And maybe, once in a while, when I preach, I walk. You know, I feel dreadfully inadequate as a pastor: I think I'm a poor manager, and sometimes I feel entirely overwhelmed and completely inept, and sermon preparation often feels like hell, but then I'll catch a glimpse of Jesus, lose myself in Him, then find myself walking on water, which often makes me sink because I think, "Hey, I'm walking on water – I can't walk on water."

Well, maybe you should:

Stop trying to make your marriage work,

Stop trying to make your business work,

Stop trying to make your kids work,

Stop trying to make your life work,

And just worship Jesus – go to Jesus.

You'll find Him in your kids- in your marriage, and even at your work, and then you'll find Him in yourself and yourself walking on water.

And if you're like me you say, "Yeah, but . . .but what if I sink? What if I fail? What if Sanctuary fails, and Downside Up fails, what if I fail?" Well, Peter failed and yet only Peter didn't fail (for a moment) only Peter got out of the boat. In other words, we all have already failed and exist in failure, so if you step out of the boat, you have nothing to lose . . .except the illusion of your own success.

Actually, the disciples most in bondage to the power of hell were still sitting in the boat. It's true that Peter sank when he saw the wind and waves, but once he saw his own failure, he also saw Jesus' success. Peter cried out, "Lord save" and the name Jesus means *the Lord is salvation*. Jesus pulled him out of the sea (Peter failed and Love does not fail.) Jesus pulled Peter out of the sea. They got in the boat – the storm stopped, they all worshipped Jesus and that's what God the Father desires, and that's how we walk on water.

Michael told me that his son, Oliver, is learning to walk. And he can do it, if he fixes his eyes on Michael. But, if he gets distracted, he falls and if he falls, what does Michael do? He picks him up.

A few months ago, during worship, my friend, Kristen said that she heard the Holy Spirit say:

1. Jesus loved Peter when He was walking on water
2. Jesus loved Peter the same when he was drowning
3. Jesus loved those that watched, the same as He loved Peter.

It's when little Oliver Bennett fixes his eyes on the unconditional love of his father that he can walk.

One day Elie Wiesel will see that God the Father was there in Auschwitz, and there in the sad little angel boy, and there in Jesus whom we all nailed to the wood. And when he truly sees the glory of the Father in the face of Jesus the son – if He hasn't already, He will come running to Him through the wind and on the waves.

According to scripture, Peter failed and Jesus picked him up, and Peter became the first bishop of the church. It was like he built that boat.

According to church history, persecution broke out against the church in Rome in 64AD. Along with his brethren, Peter fled the city to save his life, for how can you lead a church and lose your life? Well on the way out of the city, running down the Appian Way, he had a vision of Jesus walking the other way into the heart of the storm. Peter fell on his knees and said, "Lord, where are you going?" And Jesus said, "I'm going to Rome to be crucified."

Immediately, Peter turned and ran back into the city where he was crucified upside down – with Jesus and Jesus built His church on Peter. Peter died with Jesus and rose with Jesus. And all the powers of hell can't touch Him. He walks on water and so will you. Just look! [Peter moves to the communion table.

Communion

On the night Jesus was betrayed, when the storm was at its very worst, Jesus took bread and broke it saying, "This is my body given to you, at this time, this place, this world, out on this sea; take and eat." And in the same way, after supper and having given thanks, he took the cup saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for the forgiveness of sins." Do you see it? Drink it all of you. Eat it: *"Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfector, the Author of our faith."*

Keep your eyes on Jesus and you'll walk on water. I think he's calling you to the table. Walk to the table, take his body and his blood. Hebrews says, *"We're saved by the power of an indestructible life."* Take a piece of the indestructible life, and drop it into your life. It won't sink. In Jesus' name, believe the gospel and worship.

Benediction

Do you remember? I told you that you were born into this world to see something. That something is Jesus. And what is it that he wants to show you? It's not that he can walk on water. I think the evil one would tell us that at times, that Jesus just wants to show us how cool he is: He can walk on water, turn water into wine and do all kinds of tricks. But what is it that he wants to show you? He wants to show you this: [Peter spreads out his arms in front of the cross.] This

is how much the Father loves you. This is how much I love you. This is the extent to which the Spirit will go. The Spirit is unbounded and pursuing you, and the Spirit loves you. This is the love of God for you. This is unconditional love shining in the face of Jesus Christ the Lord. He says, "Do you see me? Now come on...walk to me."

Believe the gospel and walk the gospel. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Disclaimer: The author has not edited this document. Therefore, there may be discrepancies. Some discrepancies may be minor; some may have to do with theology. When in doubt, please refer to the audio or video version of the sermon on this website and don't be shy about informing us of errors.