

Purpose, Proof and Praise

1. Review: Prior to the miracle of feeding the 5,000, what was Jesus planning to do (14:13; see also Mark 6:30-32)? Why did He set aside His plans (14:14)?
2. Verse 22 begins with the word “immediately;” what does “immediately” convey to you (22-23)? What does verse 23 tell us as to why Jesus wanted to be alone in a desolate or lonely place? What time of day was it when Jesus was finally alone?
3. In verse 24 we are told the disciples were a long way from land, due to facing strong headwinds. About what time was it when Jesus approached them (25)? Based on this, what is a reasonable estimate of how much time Jesus spent alone in prayer? Why do you think He took so much time to pray?
4. Why do you think Jesus approached His disciples the way He did (25-27) – for example, why not just travel on dry land and meet them at the destination? Does the disciples’ initial reaction to seeing Jesus surprise you? Why or why not?
5. After Jesus’ reassurance of the disciples, Peter conditionally requests to be allowed to join Jesus on the water. What do Peter’s words reveal about his character (28)? How does this event (29) lend support for what Jesus says later in Matthew 16:13-19?
6. Peter’s walk was short-lived; what was the reason for Peter sinking (30-31)? Can you share an event in your life when Jesus reached out to save you from your fears? What application can you make for your life from Peter’s experience?
7. In verse 32 the wind stops once Jesus and Peter enter the boat. What did this, coupled with Jesus and Peter walking on the water, cause the disciples to exclaim (33)? If this reaction sounds familiar to you, read Matthew 27:54; what is the common thread leading to the awe in both cases? Does the disciples’ lack of faith and doubt prior to this point surprise you? Discuss.
8. Note the word “immediately” was applied to Jesus’ actions in both verses 27 and 31. What did Jesus do here with such dispatch? How does knowing this give you comfort?
9. Once the men of Gennesaret recognized Jesus, they sent out to all the region to bring the sick to Him. Beyond just His appearance, what did else do you think they recognized about Jesus (35)? In your own life journey, what have you recognized about Jesus?