

To Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>22</sup> Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. <sup>23</sup> And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. <sup>24</sup> But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. <sup>25</sup> Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. <sup>26</sup> And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. <sup>27</sup> But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." <sup>28</sup> And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." <sup>29</sup> So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" <sup>31</sup> And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" <sup>32</sup> And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. <sup>33</sup> Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." <sup>34</sup> When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret. <sup>35</sup> And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent out into all that surrounding region, brought to Him all who were sick, <sup>36</sup> and begged Him that they might only touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched it were made perfectly well.

Matthew 14:22-36 A 1-14-18 Isaiah 60:1-6 Acts 10:38-43 Psalm 2 Responsive Psalm: 86  
Hymns: 126, 343 (1-2, 4-5, 7), 134, 352

### **TRULY YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD!**

Dear fellow believers in Christ,

Once a Pharisee named Nicodemus told Jesus, "*Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him*" (Jn. 3:2b). Nicodemus wanted to know who Jesus is to be able to work such great miracles.

Jesus had just fed the five thousand with only five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus can do that because He is God. We're told, "*Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side.... And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening had come, He was alone there.*" Although He is God, Jesus is also human. Jesus didn't always use His power as God during His earthly ministry. He regularly took time to pray to His Father. During His earthly ministry as true man Jesus needed to be strengthened by His Father. The five thousand had tried to make Him their earthly king to keep feeding them and taking care of their physical needs. Jesus may well have prayed to His Father for strength to resist the temptation to be an earthly king, and instead

continue to carry out His mission as their heavenly King and Savior. Jesus may have prayed for the five thousand and everyone else to come to believe in Him as their Savior from sin.

Mark tells us in his Gospel, “[Jesus saw the disciples] straining at the oars, for the wind was against them. At about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea; and He intended to pass by them” (6:48). The disciples were way out on the Sea of Galilee, and it was stormy. Yet Jesus could see them from where He was on land because He is God. Jesus came walking out toward them on the water. John tells us in the first chapter of his Gospel that Jesus created all things together with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit (v. 3). In the first chapter of Hebrews we’re told that Jesus is “*upholding all things*” in Creation (v. 3). Jesus helped create everything, and He holds the whole Creation together, as God. Jesus could walk on water out toward His disciples because He is God. And as Mark tells us, Jesus “*intended to pass by them*” because as God He would keep them safe. The psalmist reminds us, “*God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear...*” (Ps. 46:1-2a).

“*Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, ‘It is a ghost!’ And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.’*” Remember, it was night, so it was dark. There was a storm, with wind and high waves. The disciples were already either scared or very stressed, or both. In his Gospel Mark informs us that when the disciples realized that it was Jesus walking on the water they “*were greatly amazed.... For they had not understood about the loaves*” (6:51b-52a). At that time (earlier in Jesus’ ministry) the disciples hadn’t yet understood Jesus’ great power as almighty God when He fed the five thousand. Now they were coming to understand. Jesus told them, “*Be of good cheer! It is I*” (literally from the original text, “*Be of good cheer! I AM*”); “*do not be afraid.*” Jesus, the almighty, eternal “*I AM*” came to them walking on the water, calming their fears. He tells us in His Word, “*Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand*” (Is. 41:10).

“*And Peter... said, ‘Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.’*” For Peter to ask to be able to get out of the boat in the middle of a storm and walk on the water to Jesus was asking the impossible. But as the Bible says, “*The things which are impossible with men are possible with God*” (Lk. 18:27). Paul says, “*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*” (Philip. 4:13). “*So [Jesus] said, ‘Come.’ And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.*” Peter didn’t have the power to walk on water. Jesus had the power to enable Peter to walk on water because Jesus is God.

“*But when [Peter] saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, ‘Lord, save me!’*” The fact that Peter started to sink wasn’t Jesus’ fault. Jesus hadn’t forgotten Peter, and Jesus hadn’t lost any of His power. It was Peter’s own fault. He had taken his eyes off of Jesus and wasn’t trusting Him as he had been before. At His Ascension Jesus left us with His assurance, “*All power is given to Me in heaven and in earth. ... And lo, I*

*am with you always*” (Mt. 28:18, 20b). Jesus, almighty God, is always with us, supplying us with the power to do what would be impossible for us to do by ourselves. *“Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might,”* Scripture tells us (Eph. 6:10).

When Peter started to sink he cried out to Jesus to save him. *“Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, ‘O you of little faith, why did you doubt?’”* Although many times we fail to trust in Jesus as we should, Jesus and His power never fail us. We’re assured in God’s Word, *“...the Lord ... will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed”* (Dt. 31:8).

On another earlier occasion Jesus and the disciples were in a boat on the Sea of Galilee during a bad storm, and Jesus was asleep. The disciples woke Jesus up and *“He ... rebuked the winds and the sea. And there was a great calm. And the men marveled saying, ‘Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?’”* (Mt. 8:26-27). This time *“when [Jesus and Peter] got into the boat, the wind ceased.”* The disciples now knew how Jesus could walk on water, allow Peter to walk on water, and stop the storm: *“Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, ‘Truly You are the Son of God.’”*

*“When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret. And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent out into all that surrounding region, brought to Him all who were sick, and begged Him that they might only touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched it were made perfectly well.”* All anyone who was sick had to do was touch the edge of Jesus’ robe and Jesus made that person *“perfectly well”!* Jesus can do that because He is God.

During His earthly ministry, as God Jesus healed everyone who came to Him for healing from whatever was wrong with them. Because of sin our bodies aren’t perfect. They’re subject to sickness and disease. Every time Jesus heals someone He undoes that effect of sin in that person. Matthew tells us of another time Jesus healed people: *“They brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: ‘He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses’”* (8:16-17).

That reference is from the 53<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Isaiah where it says, *“Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.... But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed”* (vv. 4a, 5). Jesus worked His greatest miracle when He healed us from the eternal consequences of sin through His death on the cross, and resurrection.

In time the Pharisee Nicodemus came to believe in Jesus as the Son of God and his Savior (Jn. 7:50; 19:39-42). As we look at all of Jesus’ miracles in the Bible, especially the miracle of His cross and empty tomb, we join the disciples in worshiping Him and saying, **“TRULY YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD”!** Amen.