

SEVEN SIGNS
#6: Lord of Fear
May 20-22, 2006

¹⁶When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, ¹⁷where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. ¹⁸A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. ¹⁹When they had rowed about three or three and a half miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened. ²⁰But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid." ²¹Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading. ²²The next day the crowd that had stayed on the opposite shore of the lake realized that only one boat had been there, and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples, but that they had gone away alone. ²³Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. ²⁴Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus.

John 6:16-24 TNIV

Introduction: The fifth sign in John's Book of Signs that Jesus is Lord falls immediately on the heels of the fourth. Having gone away by himself to pray, Jesus walks on rough waters to join his closest disciples. In so doing, he demonstrates to them and to us that he is the Lord over fear who transverses insurmountable obstacles to comfort and keep us.

- I. The Lonesome Journey
 - A. Jesus had gone to the mountain to pray by himself in order to escape the crowds.
 - B. There was only one boat for Jesus and his closest followers.
 - C. The disciples left without Jesus to cross the lake and travel to Capernaum.

- II. The Treacherous Journey
 - A. After the disciples had rowed to the middle of the lake, a strong wind began to blow.
 - B. The disciples were likely already fearful, finding it difficult to traverse the lake.
 - C. When they saw Jesus coming toward them, they must not have recognized him, because they were afraid.
 - D. Or perhaps they might have been fearful because they had left without clear instruction from Jesus.
- III. The Miraculous Journey
 - A. Jesus walked to the disciples' boat on the water, crossing the rough waters to reach them.
 - B. When Jesus arrived, he identified himself in the same way that God had identified himself to Moses at the burning bush: "Ego Ami" (Aramaic), or "I am!"
 - C. Jesus calmed the disciples' fears with his words.
 - D. Only then were the disciples willing to take him into the boat.
 - E. Conversely, the multitudes sought Jesus.
- IV. The Personal Journey
 - A. Like the disciples, we often set out on our own.
 - B. When we encounter difficult circumstances and our own mortality, we become fearful.
 - C. Even when we first begin to sense that Jesus is seeking us, we are afraid.
 - D. Jesus seeks us out, crossing all obstacles to reach us, and comforts us with his very identity.
 - E. Once we realize who Jesus is and comprehend his great love for us, we invite him into our lives.

Conclusion: Jesus walking on the water is the clear sign that Jesus is the Lord of our fears and our lives. We do not seek him, but he seeks us and crosses all obstacles to find us and calm our fears. No matter how chaotic our lives are, "He Is!"