

A close-up photograph of a stone architectural detail, likely a frieze or cornice, featuring intricate carvings of acanthus leaves and scrolls. The stone is a warm, reddish-brown color with some weathering and discoloration. The background is a blurred, dark greenish-grey.

Tim Collins

<http://www.pas.Rochester.edu/~tim/study/study.html>

# WHO IS JESUS?

*Jesus calms the storm*



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# Tonight: *Jesus calms the storm*

- *Or, Why did he tell us to take the boat, again?*



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- *Or, Why did he tell us to take the boat, again?*

*Fun fact: Rembrandt's only seascape, stolen in 1990 and still missing*

# Opening with prayer, followed by song

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Be still and know that I am God,  
be still and know that I am God,  
be still and know that I am God.

In thee, O Lord, I put my trust,  
In thee, O Lord, I put my trust,  
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# This passage appears in three gospels

## John 6:13-24

“So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. “When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.”

“When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

### *Jesus Walks on the Water*

“When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, “got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. “The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. “When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. “But he said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.” “Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

## Matthew 14:22-33

### *Jesus Walks on the Water*

“Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. “And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, “but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land,“ for the wind was against them. “And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. “But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. “But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

“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, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. “But when he noticed the strong wind,“ he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” “Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” “When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. “And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

## Mark 6:45-52

### *Jesus Walks on the Water*

“Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. “After saying farewell to them, he went up on the mountain to pray.

“When evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. “When he saw that they were straining at the oars against an adverse wind, he came towards them early in the morning, walking on the sea. He intended to pass them by. “But when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and cried out; “for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” “Then he got into the boat with them and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, “for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

- Few events occur in all of the Big Four, e.g. the Passion and Feeding the 5k
- And *John*, not *Luke*, decided to include this (unusual!)
- The *Peter interlude* occurs only in *Matthew*. Was Peter (who is traditionally thought to be behind Mark) shy?
- Note—this is the *second* time Jesus calms the storm

# This passage appears in three gospels

John 6:13-24	Matthew 14:22-33	Mark 6:45-52
"So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. "When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."  "When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he fled again to the mountain by himself.  <i>Jesus Walks on the Water</i>  "When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, "got into a boat, and started across Capernaum. It was now dark, and the wind was strong and was blowing "from the south. "The sea was rough because of the wind. "They saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. "But he said to them, "It is I. Do not be afraid."	<i>Jesus Walks on the Water</i>  "Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. "And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. "When he came down, the disciples were there, but they did not know what he was doing. "The boat was in the middle of the sea, and the wind was still blowing. "They saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. "But he said to them, "It is I. Do not be afraid."	<i>Jesus Walks on the Water</i>  "Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. "After saying farewell to them, he went up on the mountain to pray.
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Time to analyze...



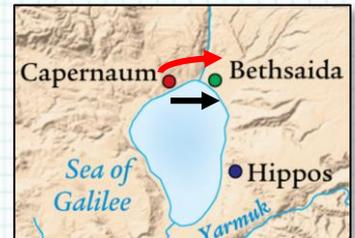
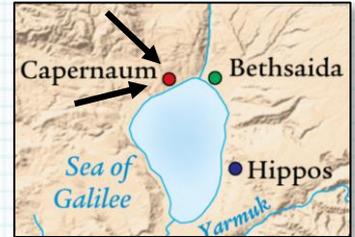
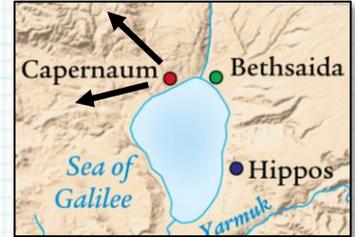
Q: What's different between the accounts, and why?

John 6:13-24; Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52

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# This passage presents a dynamic sequence of events

- 1 **Boot camp**: Jesus send out the 12 to preach and heal—“take no money, no bag, no spare tunic nor staff” (Mt 9-10, Mk 6, Lk 9)
- 2 **Herod decapitates John** (Mt 14, Mk 6)
- 3 **The 12 return** (Mt 14, Mk 6, Lk 9) —“The apostles returned to Jesus... And he told them, ‘Come away by yourselves to a lonely place, and rest a while.’ For many were coming and going and they had no leisure even to eat.” (Mk 6:31)
- 4 **Jesus and the 12 go off in a boat**, but the crowd spots them and runs off ahead



# This passage presents a dynamic sequence of events

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5

A long day of healing and teaching: Jesus reaches the other side, gets out of the boat, and “he had compassion on them,” healing their sick and teaching them of the kingdom of God (Mt 14, Mk 6, Lk 9)

6

Jesus feeds the 5k (Mt 14, Mk 6, Lk 9, Jn) and they try to make him king by force

7

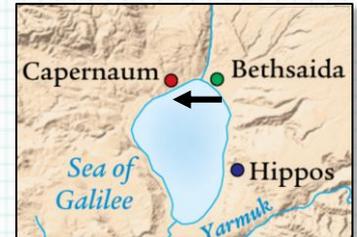
Jesus sends the disciples off to take the boat home while he goes up a mountain to be alone

8

By 3 AM the apostles are struggling in a violent storm on the lake

9

Jesus meets them on the lake, seeing they are struggling



# This passage presents a dynamic sequence of events

**A long day of healing and teaching: Jesus reaches the other side, gets out of the boat, and “he had compassion on them,”**

**5**  
*He intended to pass them by:* “The phrase suggests that he intended to make himself visible to the disciples to relieve their fear and to reveal his power to them. On this understanding of the phrase, Jesus’ intent is frustrated, for when they see him they become even more frightened, supposing him to be a sea demon.” [Hurtado]

teaching them of the kingdom of God (Mt

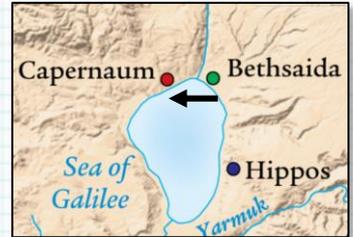
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“The Sea of Galilee lied about 600 ft below sea level. Cool air from the south-eastern tablelands can rush in to displace the warm moist air over the lake, churning up the water in a violent squall” [Carson]

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6

Jesus  
him

This was a week of extremes for the disciples:

- They go out on their first terrifying journey and have huge success;

try to make

- Jesus asks them to feed the multitude and then fall on their faces

while he

7

Jesus  
goes

- The crowd wants Palm Sunday *now*, which must have been exhilarating

form on the

8

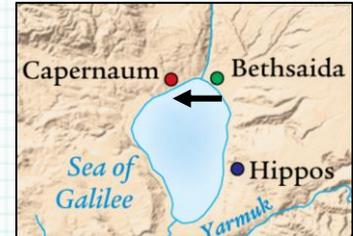
By 3  
lake

- Jesus responds by exiting stage left and sending them off in the boat...

9

Jesus

- ...and they find themselves struggling for hours on end



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afraid, and they said to him, "Who are you, Lord?"	<b>Q: What's different between the accounts, and why?</b>	
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Note—this is the *second* time Jesus calms the storm

# “Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed” (Lk 5:16)

- “Very early in the morning while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed”
- Sometimes we are told why:
  - ❖ Preparing to launch his ministry, driven by the Spirit (Mk 1:12)
  - ❖ Previous day was wall-to-wall healings and exorcisms (Mk 1:35)
  - ❖ The Pharisees, provoked by a Sabbath healing, were plotting his death (Mk 3:7)
  - ❖ Preparing to choose the twelve (Lk 5:16+)
  - ❖ After his cousin John is decapitated (Mk 14:13)
  - ❖ Before heading south to his passion (i.e. the transfiguration; Mk 9:2)
  - ❖ Gethsemane, preparing to be humiliated, tortured and killed

**Q: Why does Jesus send the disciples away and go off on his own?**





This stinks.  
Glad Peter's  
here!

By this time  
they are  
exhausted



Jews  
traditionally  
saw the sea as  
chaos



This is not the first storm  
which Jesus calmed. How is  
this one different?



This is not the first storm which Jesus calmed. How is this one different?

How do you suppose the disciples felt?



This is not the first storm which Jesus calmed. How is this one different?



Jesus intended to calm them but Mark says they freaked instead

Our *expectations* can affect how we experience Jesus' comfort

Jesus walked by... but the waves didn't shrink

In the OT, a "hardened heart" showed *lack of trust or disobedience*

Mark says they didn't get it. What didn't they get?



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What does Mark hope we will learn from this?

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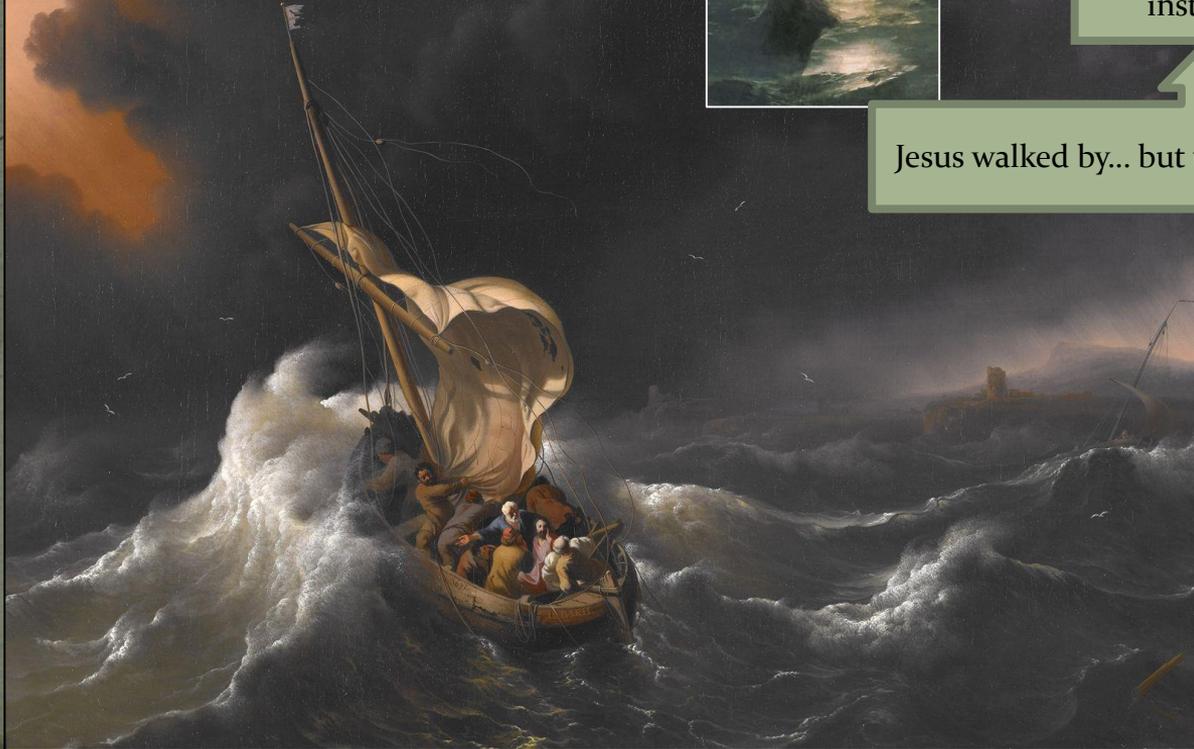


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Is it possible Jesus is trying to reassure you right now?



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Were they in the storm because they'd disobeyed the Lord (like Jonah) or because they'd obeyed him (like Paul)?



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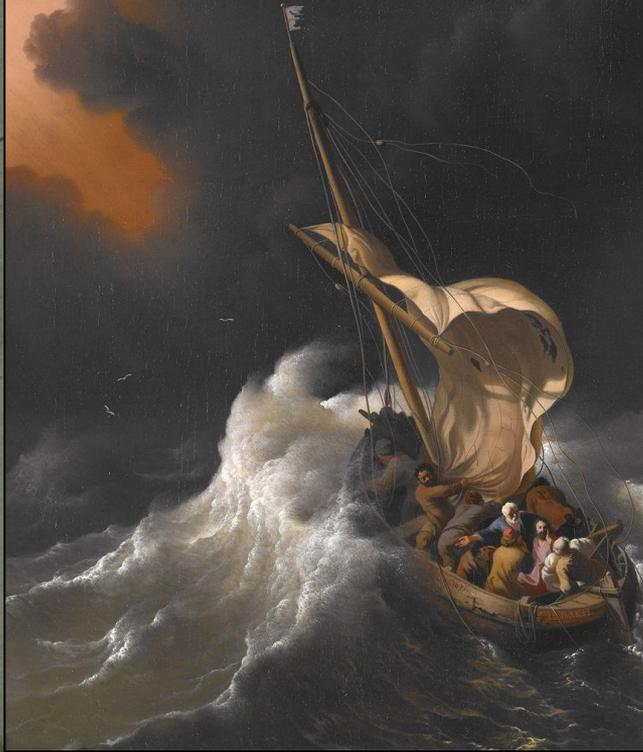
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Sometimes the Lord leads us *into* storms

Can we use adversity as a sign God is or is not in our endeavor?



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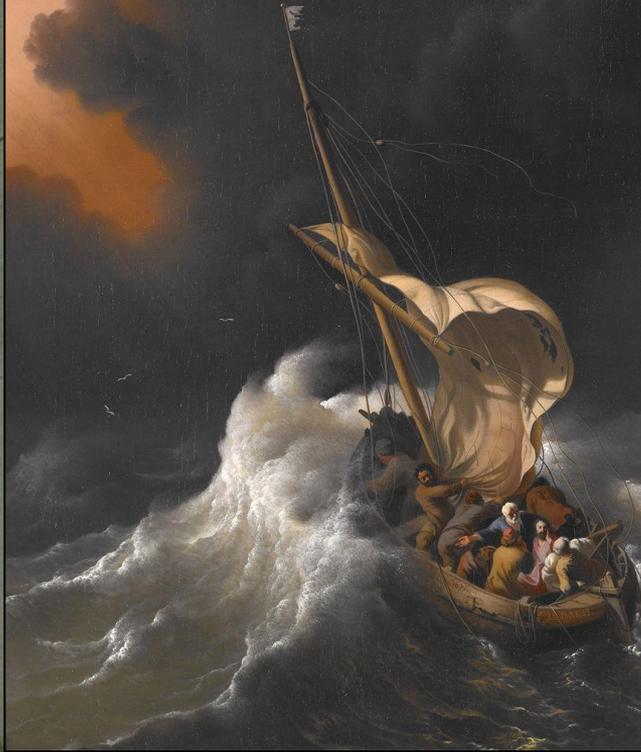
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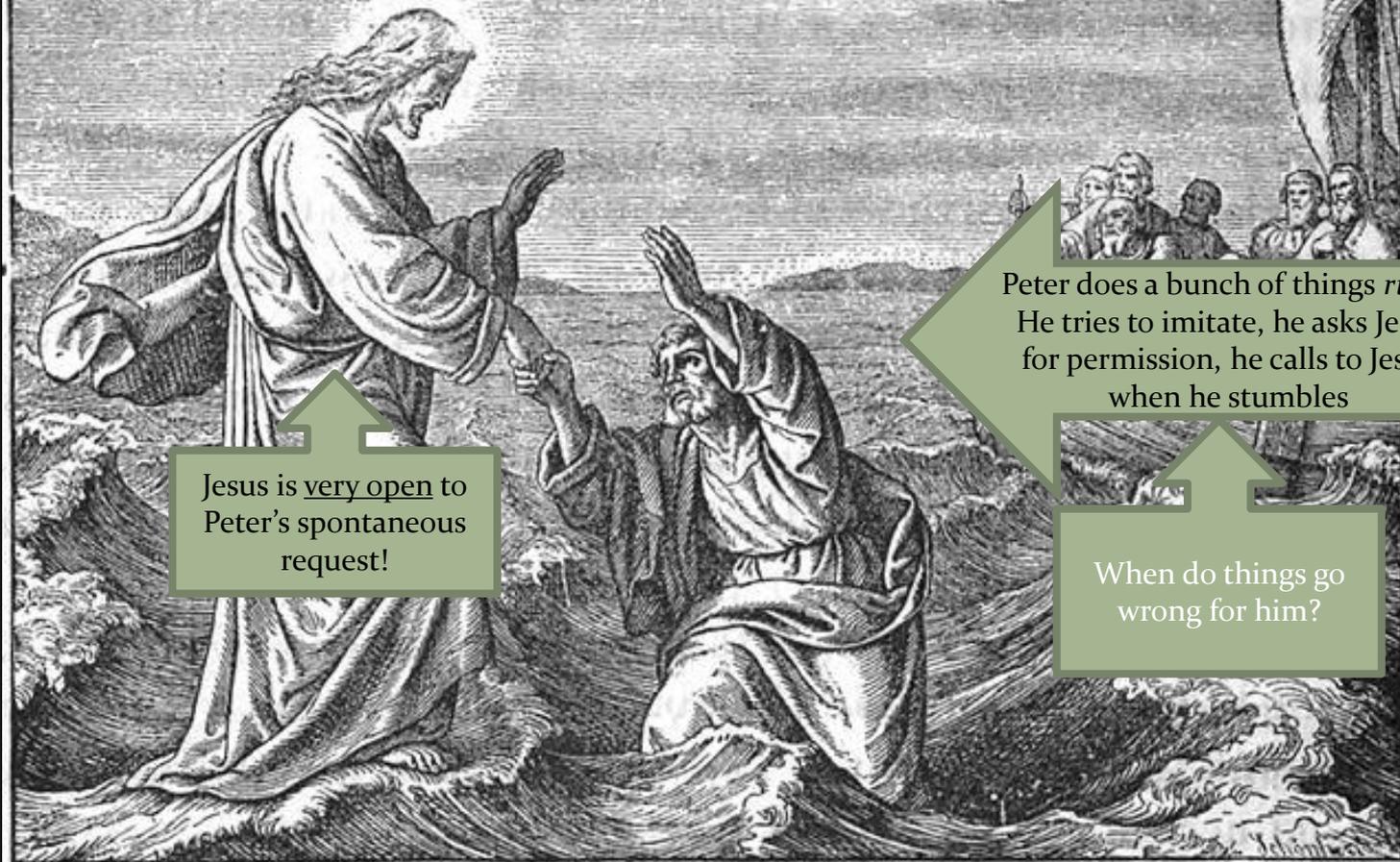
“...just because disciples face difficulties does not mean that Jesus is not the one who sent them (Mt 14:22, 24; cf. 10:17-39) [Keener]”

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Can we use adversity as a sign God is or is not in our endeavor?



In the OT, walking on water was something *God* does (Job 9:8; Ps 77:20). Moses and Elijah came close, but no cigar



Jesus is very open to Peter's spontaneous request!

Peter does a bunch of things *right*: He tries to imitate, he asks Jesus for permission, he calls to Jesus when he stumbles

When do things go wrong for him?

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*Surviving the storm is about focus:*  
Keep your eyes on Jesus; be thankful; set your mind on the things above (Col 3:2); don't focus on the *chapter* of the book but on the *author*; go off in prayer like Jesus did; remember what Jesus has done

What would you add? What has worked for you?

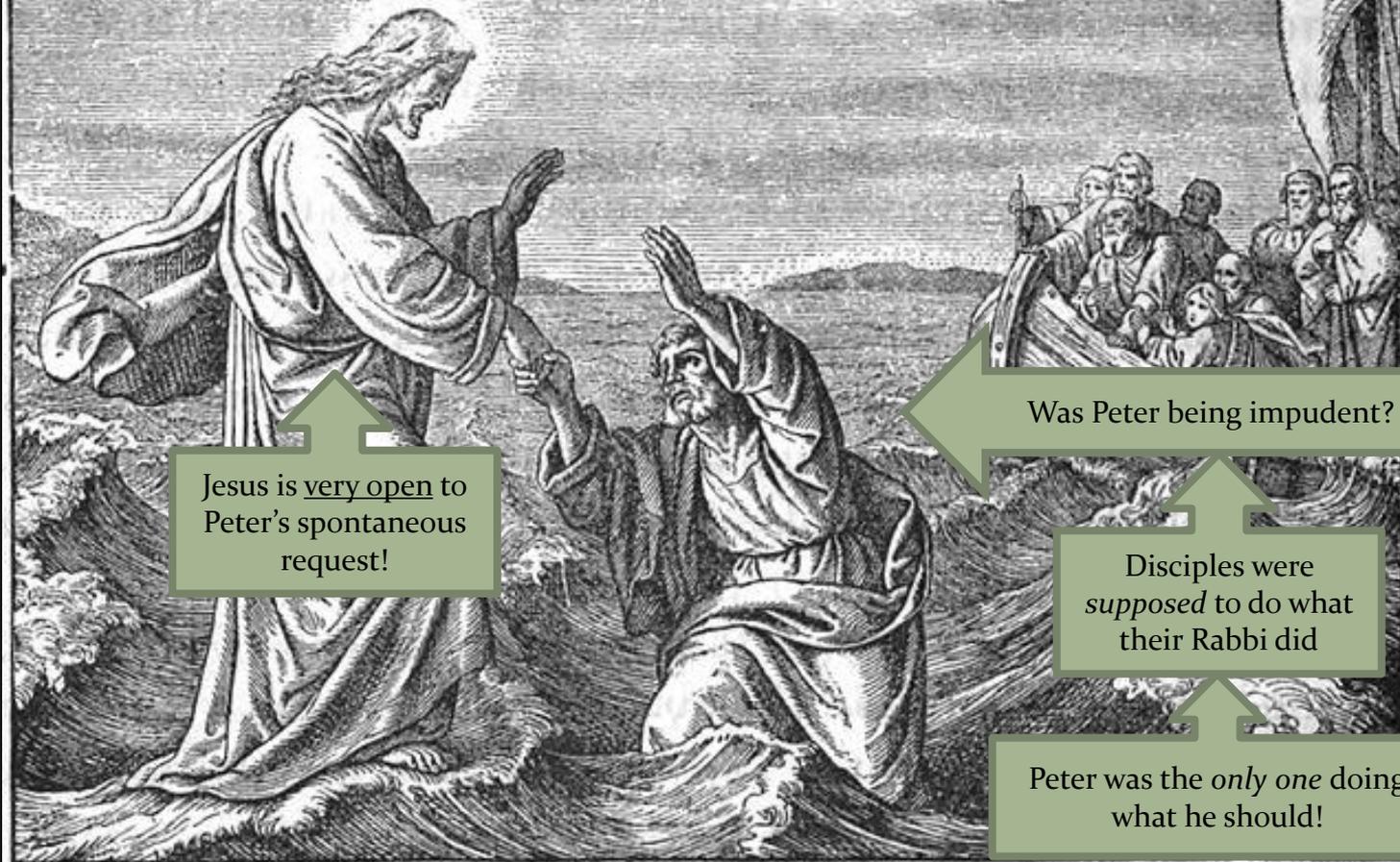
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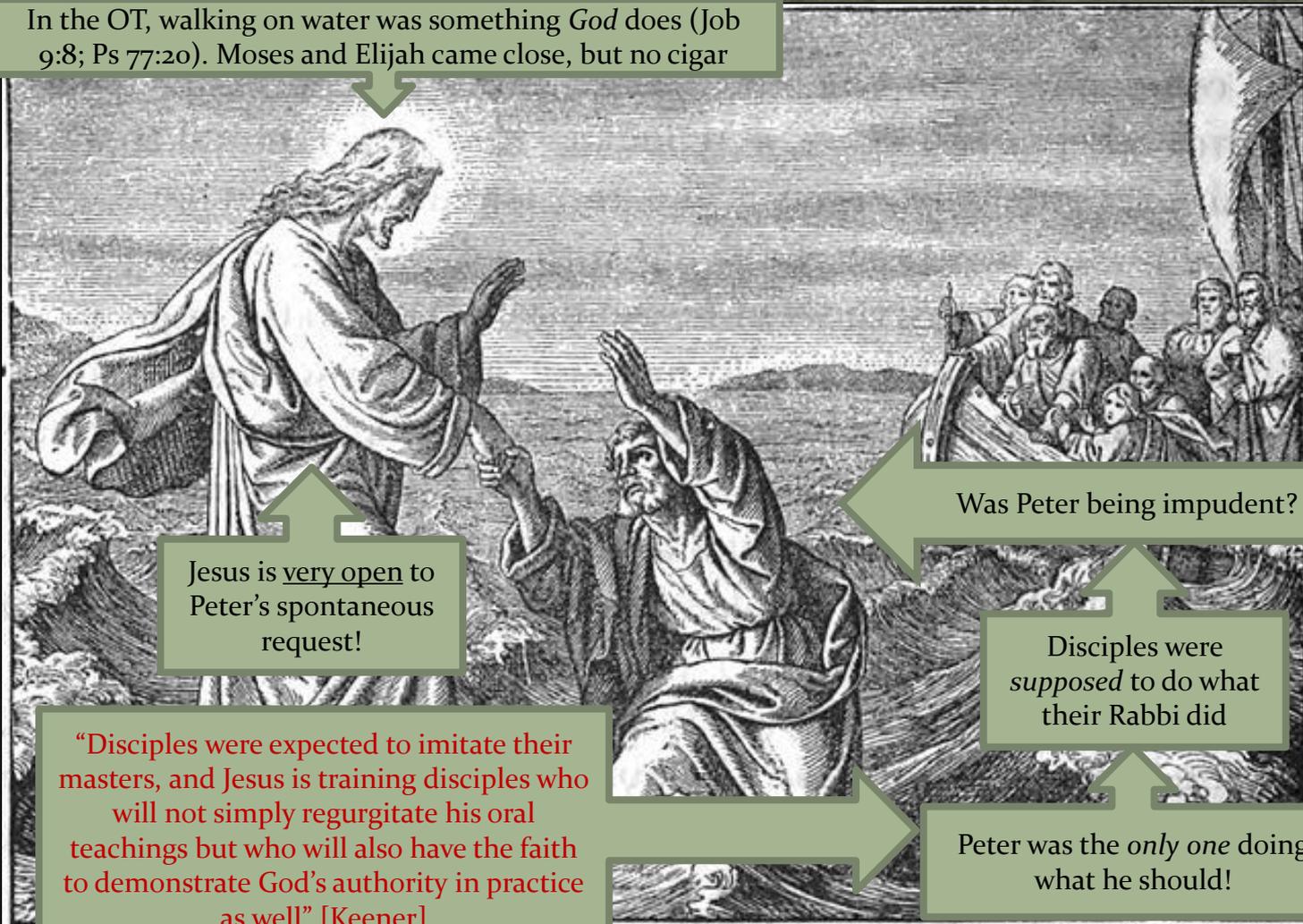
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Peter was the *only one* doing what he should!

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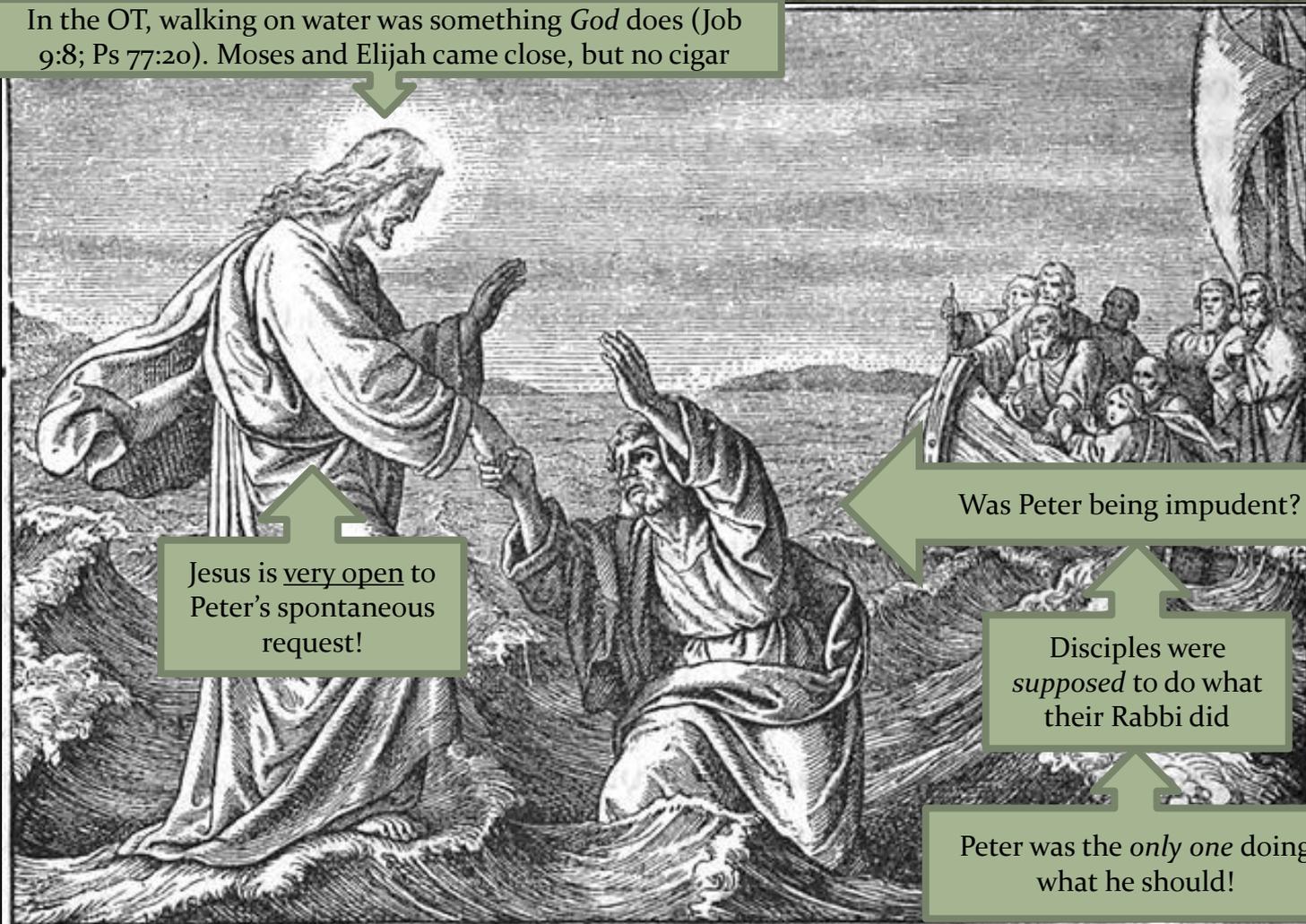
“Disciples were expected to imitate their masters, and Jesus is training disciples who will not simply regurgitate his oral teachings but who will also have the faith to demonstrate God's authority in practice as well” [Keener]

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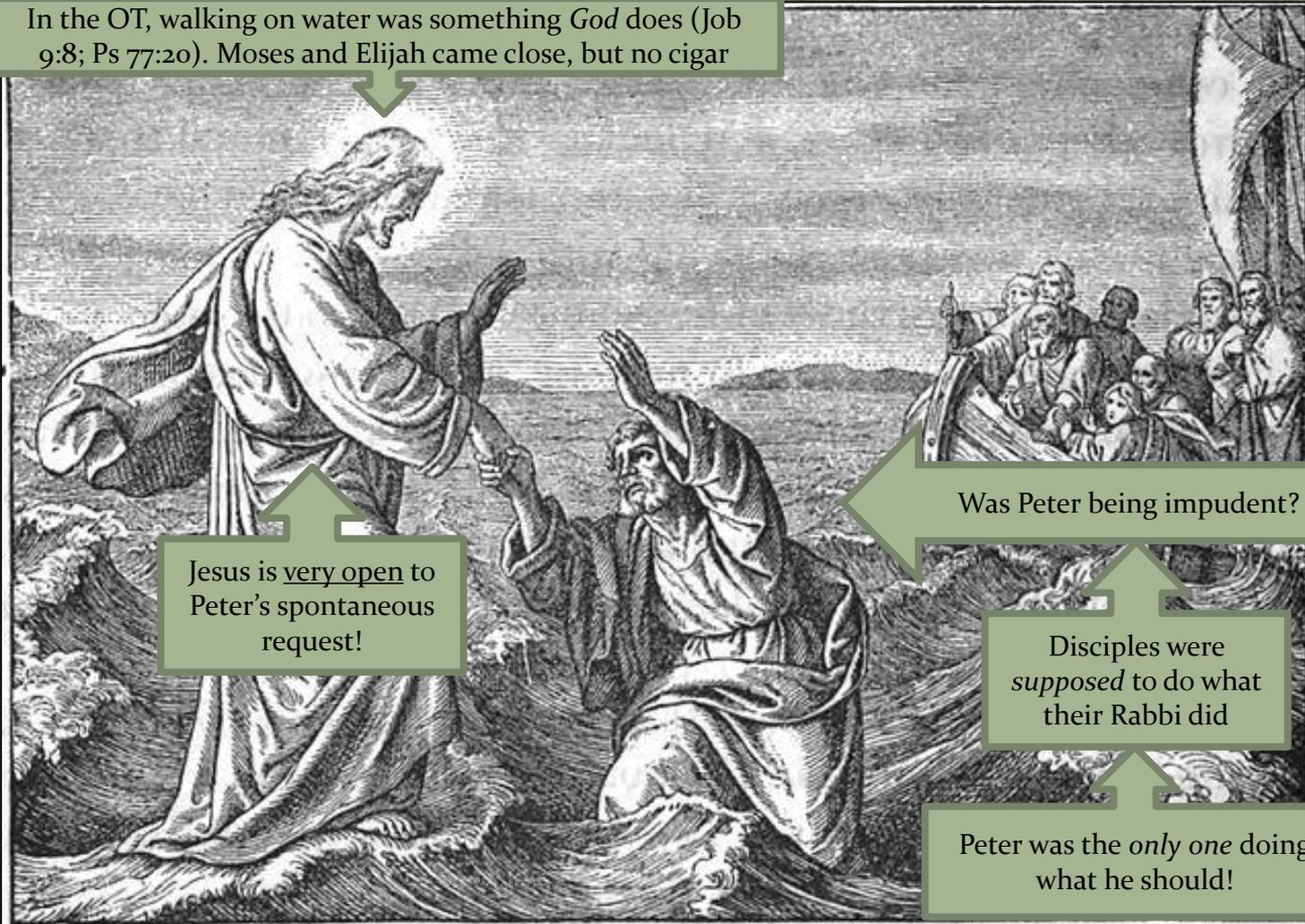
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What could we be asking of Jesus that we aren't?

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If Jesus were here, what would he be doing?

What could we be asking of Jesus that we aren't?

## As usual, John works on multiple levels

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- “By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them.” (John 6:17b)
- In John, Nicodemus comes in the dark (3:2); Judas, intent on betrayal, steals off into the darkness (13:30) and now the disciples, not yet indwelt by the Spirit, struggle in the darkness.
- This is a simple description of the world in which the church has lived for the past 2,000 years.
- John may be saying, *When all is dark, look not around you, nor inside of you, but look for Jesus, and you will know peace.*

*Q: This is good advice, but how do you put it into practice?*

Three out of four gospel writers find this brief but complex passage indispensable for disciples

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What does this passage tell you about who Jesus is and what he's like?

# In times of trouble, Huddle!



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**XXX**

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