

“Crossing the Sea” (Jn. 6:15-25)

1. Allusions (Ch. 6, Exod., Matt., Israel)
 - a. Chapter 6
 - i. After the Exodus, Israel was fed in the wilderness with the manna and here in ch. 6, Jesus is the One who feeds Israel on the mountain side.
 - ii. It was at Passover time when Jesus fed them and the Passover was the last event before Israel’s exodus from Egypt.
 - iii. Now we see Jesus conquering the chaotic sea as God did for fleeing Israel.
 - b. Exodus and Matthew (see doc.)
 - c. Israel and Jesus
2. Alone (15-16)
 - a. He sent them away (cf. Matt. 14:22).
 - b. His hour had not come (v. 15).
 - c. He sent the crowds away (Mat. 14:22).
 - d. He spent time praying (Mat. 14:23).
 - e. His disciple set out alone on the Sea of Galilee. It’s good to be alone and it’s good to be separate with your brethren.
3. Alarm (17-18)
 - a. Darkness: night had fallen
 - b. Distant: middle of the lake
 - c. Dismay
 - i. At the storm
 - ii. At Jesus initially →
4. Approach (19-20)
 - a. Jesus comes to them – w/o a boat!!
 - b. It was likely understood that He’d go around like the crowd or perhaps catch a ride on another boat.
 - c. After their conflict with the sea, their fear arose with the sight of one walking on the water.
 - d. As the LORD often does, He assures the humble they need not fear His otherwise terrifying presence!
 - e. God of both land and sea: Consider these OT passages:
 - i. Ps. 93:3-4 Only YHWH is over the chaotic seas.
 - ii. Ps. 77:16-19 He is even the source of such storms – both naturally and supernaturally.
 - iii. Job 9:8 is literally fulfilled here!
 - iv. Ps. 107:23-30
 1. See v. 28 regarding Peter in Matthew’s account (14:31).
 2. See especially vv. 29-30 regarding their shore arrival (v. 21). →
5. Arrival (21)
 - a. Some say that they immediately arrived at shore because that’s where they were when the storm and Jesus met. However, why fear so near the shore? And why point out they were in the middle of the lake?
 - b. As just noted, when the divine Jesus steps into fellowship with His own, they find that they are where they need to be.
 - c. He may send a storm but He will do so in order that you trust Him. You see, He appeared to them on His own time, place, and fashion. He refused to reveal Himself as King to the crowds and now reveals to His disciples that He is the God of earth, sea, and heaven!

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- d. N. T. Wright artfully expressed application: “The story of Jesus’ walking on the water can easily be used as a theme for meditation. There are many times in our lives—and we never know when they will strike—when, metaphorically speaking, suddenly the wind gets up and the sea becomes rough. As we struggle to make our way through, sometimes we are aware of a presence with us, which may initially be more disturbing than comforting. (‘We’re already nearly drowning, and now we’ve got ghosts following us!’) But if we listen, through the roar of the waves and the wind, we may hear the voice that says, ‘It’s me—don’t be afraid.’ And if we are ready then to take Jesus on board, we may find ourselves, sooner than we expected, at the harbour where we will be calm and secure once more.”¹
6. Amazement (22-25)
- a. The obvious amazement of the crowds is that they knew Jesus sent His disciples and them away while isolating Himself on the mount to be alone.
 - b. And now He is found with His disciples having already arrived. They saw no other boat there!

PC for “Crossing the Sea” (Jn. 6:15-25)

Jesus will let us be alone. He will even allow us to be alarmed. But the same storms which bring chaos, doubt, conflict, and pain in our lives are the same storms over which He is Lord. He will approach His own to either calm the storm or His child. And when we are amazed at His rescue, we know He had never really left us. He crossed the Sea of Galilee to be with His own and He moved heaven and earth to secure your soul. He is LORD of earth, sea, and heaven and He desired to be our Savior; so He conquered the chaotic storms of life, our sin, hell, and death itself so we can be with Him forevermore.

¹ Wright, T. (2004). *John for Everyone, Part 1: Chapters 1-10* (p. 77). London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.