

HERE COMES JESUS WALKING ON THE WATER

John 6:16–21 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 frightened. But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum

This as short 8 mile trip that they had done maybe hundreds of time it was routine and nothing out of the ordinary was expected. As we entered into 2020 we expected the economy to be strong, our jobs were secure, the plans of seniors in high school and college were being made for parties, gatherings and celebrations with family and friends. Churches celebrated Epiphany and looked forward to Lent and Easter.

It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them

Darkness came and Jesus was not with them... then darkness in the form of a report of a virus coming out of China that was not like any other we had experienced. The darkness grew and became a storm.

The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing.

The darkness became a Pandemic and cases grew and deaths mounted. We were in a great storm the likes of which we had never seen before. We were told to shelter in place. We were told whose jobs were essential or non-essential. Schools were closed and churches were told not to hold Sunday worship services.

When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened.

We rowed hard, we sheltered in place, we wore gloves and masks, we taught our kids at home, we no longer gathered for worship, and in spite of our best efforts, the virus still raged and we became afraid...

they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened. But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid."

Jesus comes to us in the storm, He is walking on the waves, He is above the storm, and He is unaffected by the raging winds and he speaks to us seven powerful words... ***"It is I; do not be afraid."*** Jesus is enough. The storm rages around Him but He remains in control of the covid-19 virus, our world, our country, our state and our individual lives. His presence is our security, our hope, our strength, our courage. Jesus is not limited by disease, pandemics, the rise and fall of stock markets, or worship without a building. Jesus is not a God of scarcity but of infinite resources.

Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going. We let Him in the boat that is our lives when we Trust in Him and let His peace dwell in our hearts. Then we can make it through this storm that is Covid-19 without fearing each new day, without fearing the coming week, months and years ahead.

Remember these words of Jesus when you are tempted to be anxious and fearful... ***"It is I; do not be afraid."***