

**Prayer:**

**Slide # 1**

**Theme:** *Christ the King*

**Outline:**

- Chps. 1-2 The Advent of the King. (Proving His LEGAL right to the throne by His genealogy.)
- Chp. 3 The Forerunner of the King and the King’s baptism.
- Chp. 4 The Test of the King. (Proving His MORAL right to the throne by not yielding to temptation; and exhibiting His kingdom resume.)
- Chps. 5-7 The Pronouncements of the King. (Proving His JUDICIAL right to the throne as seen in the wisdom of His kingdom teaching.)
- Chps. 8-10 The Power of the King. (Proving His PROPHETICAL right to the throne by fulfilling prophecy.)
- Chps. 11-12 The Rejection of the King.
- Chp. 13 The Parables of the King.
- Chps. 14-16 The Revelations of the King.**
- Chps. 17-20 The Instructions of the King.
- Chps. 21-23 Formal Rejection of the King.
- Chps. 24-25 The Predictions of the King.
- Chps. 26-27 The Passion of the King.
- Chp. 28 The Resurrection of the King.

Matthew writes to show that Jesus is Israel’s Messiah-God just as prophesied in the OT. All of the prerequisites necessary to be the Messiah are fulfilled in Jesus. He has the right lineage, the right character, the right wisdom, and the right power fulfilling prophecy in keeping with kingdom truth. Every thing lines up with Jesus being the Messiah. What the OT through inspired prophecy predicted is fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth to the letter.

The coming Messiah was to be a unique person. He would be the God-Man doing kingdom miracles. These miracles (often called signs and wonders) are presented in terms of 3 categories consisting of 1) miracles over sickness and disease, 2) miracles over Satan and demons, and 3) miracles over nature.

Matthew 14 emphasizes Christ's unique power over nature. The apostles while empowered on some level to do miracles in Christ's name over disease and demons, never performed miracles over nature. This was unique to Christ alone. Last time in our study we saw Christ performing a nature miracle – a creation miracle as He fed 5000 with one little boys lunch comprised of 5 loaves and 2 fish.

Today we see Christ's power exhibited over nature as He walks on water and stills the storm. We pick up our study at Matthew 14:22.

### **Matthew 14:22–33 (NKJV)**

**22 Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.**

The context here is that Jesus had just miraculously fed the 5000 (probably more like 20,000 when you include women and children) and the response was a popular uprising to try and make Him king.

### **Slide # 2**

#### **John 6:14–15 (NKJV)**

**14** Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."

**15** Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were **about to come and take Him by force to make Him king**, He **departed** again to the mountain by Himself alone.

Jesus knowing their intentions sent His disciples away by boat to the other side of the sea of Galilee and then proceeded to send the multitudes away. Again, Jesus ever being the LORD was in command of the disciples – sending them out to sea and also sending the multitudes away.

The language here "***made His disciples get into the boat and go***" is very forceful. ***Made*** is the idea of "***compelled***".

It suggests that the disciples would have liked to stay and share in the excitement of the crowd. – ***William Mounce***

But as was so often the case both the multitudes as well as the disciples were out of sync with the will of God. The timing and the way it was being forced was not right. Christ's being coronated as King has to be in accordance with God's terms and His terms are accepting Christ for Who He is as Messiah-God. This, the crowd was not willing to do, as was seen the next day as recorded in John 6.

John 6:17 says the disciples in their boat headed towards Capernaum while Mark 6:45 says they headed for “**Bethsaida**”. The Bethsaida in view was close to Capernaum. When you put it all together it seems that they left the area of Bethsaida Julias and headed for Bethsaida Galilee on the other side of the lake.

### **Slide # 3**



**23 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.**

Recall that the reason they came to the area of Bethsaida Julias in the first place was for some rest and relaxation.

### **Slide # 4**

#### **Mark 6:31–32 (NKJV)**

**31** And He said to them, “Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and **rest a while**.” For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.

**32** So they **departed to a deserted place** in the boat by themselves.

In the busyness of life we often need times when we can just get away from it all for a while. The old saying, “*We need to come apart or we will come apart*” rings true. We all need periods of rest when we can take a break.

However, as we have followed the story, the multitudes quickly caught up with Jesus in this deserted place. And now having fed them, they were wanting to forcibly make Him king. However, Jesus sent them all away and once again seeks some time alone. Thus, He finally had some lone time all by Himself with just Him and God the Father.

It is noteworthy that Jesus knew the reality of a constant struggle to find some alone time where He could just spend time in prayer. The crowds were ever there. The pressures of ministry were ever there. One has to be very intentional in the matter of a quiet time or it won't happen. The pressures of life are always there. And so it was for Jesus too!

In the pressures and busyness of ministry even Christ at times felt the need to get away all by Himself for a season of prayer. Psalm 62:8 says, “**Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah**”. Often our way of coping is very man-centered but for Jesus in His state of humility it was all God-centered.

There is something awesome in the Lord’s desire for tranquility, something that rebukes our neglect of the place of prayer.

– **John Phillips**

In Jewish reckoning there were two evenings. There was early evening which amounted to late afternoon, and then there was evening after sunset when it was dark. Jesus fed the multitude in the evening of late afternoon (v. 15), but in view here is the evening of darkness. And here we find Jesus on a mountain alone all by Himself in prayer. This was “renewal” time – this was prep time for what lie ahead. Jesus is the ultimate model who handled life with prayer.

**24 But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.**

John 6:19 literally says they had rowed about “25 or 30 stadia”. A stadia was about 600 feet - so when you do the math they were about 3 or 4 miles out on the lake - or as Matthew 14:24 says, “**in the middle of the sea**”. The Sea of Galilee is about 8 miles wide at its widest part, and about 13 miles long, and 140 feet deep.

### **Slide # 5 – The Sea of Galilee**

#### The Sea of Galilee



**The Sea of Galilee** is a freshwater lake with a length from north to south of 13 miles, a maximum width of 8 miles. The lake lies 686 feet below sea level, but it is surrounded by steep cliffs and hills, creating strong swirling wind.

The Sea of Galilee is known for its sudden storms bringing about great squalls as winds from the surrounding hills and canyons sweep across the lake quickly stirring up dangerous billows.

It is surmised that perhaps they were in a small fishing boat owned by Peter and John. A 2000-year-old fishing boat has been found on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee. It could hold 15 men – was about 27 feet long, 7.5 wide, and 4.5 feet high.

### **Slide # 6**



Here they were in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, with a contrary wind.

It is significant to note that the disciples found themselves in great difficulty while they were following the direct command of the Christ. Commonly modern believers feel that dire circumstances must be an indication they are out of the will of God. Evidently such a conclusion often is unwarranted. – **Howard Vos**

Sometimes God has a purpose for sending you into a storm. He uses storms in our lives as well as seasons of calm.

### **25 Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.**

The Romans divided the night into 4 watches of 3-hour increments. The fourth watch was from 3 AM until 6 AM. Now it would seem from the context that Jesus had sent the disciples to cross the sea about 8 or 9 hours previous to this, so they had evidently been toiling and struggling out there for a LONG time. I mean a long night of rowing against the wind and contending with great billows of water would exhaust anyone.

It is as if Jesus waited until they had exhausted their resources. And then here He comes walking on the sea. In all of this Jesus is teaching them. In the feeding of the 5000 He was teaching them that without Him they could do nothing, and now in the storm He is about to teach them He is the answer to every impossible situation and in the storm we are totally dependent upon Him. Again, He is teaching them about dependence upon Him! This is one of the most important lessons in life that we can ever learn.

### ***He Giveth More Grace...***

When we have exhausted our store of endurance,  
 When our strength has failed ere the day is half done;  
 When we reach the end of our hoarded resources,  
 Our Father's full giving is only begun.  
 His love has no limit, His grace has no measure,  
 His pow'r has no boundary known unto men;  
 For out of His infinite riches in Jesus, He giveth, and giveth, and  
 giveth again.

**26 And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.**

Twice the text plainly says Jesus was "walking on the sea" (v. 25-26). This shows that Jesus is the LORD of creation who rules over nature.

### **Slide # 7**

**Job 9:8 (NKJV)**

**8 He alone spreads out the heavens, And treads on the waves of the sea;**

It is good for us to remember that the waves of the storm (figuratively speaking) that cause us to fear, are under His feet. Jesus is sovereign over the storm – no matter how hard the winds blow or how high the billows roll.

The Greek word (phantasma) translated "ghost" is the term for a spirit or an apparition.

You can understand their hysteria. It's not everyday you see someone walking on a body of water 140 deep in the context of the wind blowing ferociously and 10-foot waves foaming all around. I imagine those guys rowing, as tired as they were, found another gear – but all to no avail.

So here they were troubled (or as the ESV translates it “**terrified**”) crying out in fear, “**It is a ghost**”. It’s like the old boy from Tennessee who said, “**I didn’t believe in ghosts either until I saw one!**”

That was these disciples. Suddenly they did believe in ghosts because they thought they were seeing one and they cried out for fear. How do you cry out in fear? It sounds kind of like “**AAHHHHH!**”

**27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.”**

Immediately Jesus responded to their overwhelming fear saying, “**Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.**” “Be of good cheer” can be translated as “**Be of good courage**” or “**Take heart**”. Jesus commanded them to take heart and not be afraid.

“**Do not be afraid**” is more literally “**Stop being afraid**”. It is a present imperative meaning it is a command. Again, we see the Lordship of Christ on display as He takes charge of the situation commanding them what to do in a most intense situation.

And the basis for them taking heart is seen in that little phrase, “**It is I**”. It is all because of WHO is telling them too not be afraid. Peace is sourced in a person the Bible calls the “**Prince of Peace**”.

The Greek phrase (ego eimi) translated, “**It is I**” is more literally “**I am**”.

### **Slide # 8**

The statement is Jesus’ purposeful echo of OT texts like Ex. 3:14 and identifies Him as Yahweh God. - **HCSB**

The Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Hebrew OT) consistently applies this phrase to God when He ALONE claims to have the power to rescue His people (cf. Isa. 41:10; 43:1-2; 43:1-2, 10; 45:22; 46:4; 48:17).

The context would indicate that Jesus is using “**I am**” here in the sense of deity because He was doing and was about to do what only deity can do – that is show LORDSHIP over the laws of nature. And where the text rightfully goes is to the worship of Jesus as the Son of God in verse 33.

All this would indicate that Jesus was saying, “**Take heart because I am God and therefore do not be afraid.**”

When the Almighty God tells you to take heart and not be afraid you can rest easy because He controls all things including the whole of nature. He is Lord of the sea and everything else.

**28 And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.”**

Peter is consistently the leader and spokesman for the disciples. Peter rightly called Jesus’ **“Lord”** at this juncture. Lord means **“Master”**. When properly used of Jesus it refers to His sovereign authority. Peter addresses Him as Lord Who has authority over all including all the forces of nature saying, **“Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.”**

Lordship and commanding go together because as Lord everything is under the authority of His command.

Now Peter could be impetuous (rash) and impulsive (giving no forethought) and so here he goes on the fly throwing out this wild idea about the Lord commanding him to come to Him on the water.

**29 So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.**

Now if you are Peter you have another problem. The One He just called “Lord” has affirmed his suggestion that he command him to come. Now what? **“No, Lord”** is a contradiction! At this point it would have been a little hard for Peter to say, **“Maybe we should pray about this”**. NO! You don’t have to pray about what the Lord is point blank telling you to do. The obedience of faith just does it.

And there must have been authority in the Lord’s voice when He said, **“Come”**. I don’t think it was a timid suggestive tone. I think it was powerful and authoritative tone from the Master of the waves saying, – **“COME!”**

And at that command Peter went bounding out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus on the water.

Now it is easy to get on Peter, but lets give him a little credit. None of the other disciples had the faith to even suggest this. None of the others got out of the boat. I am sure they were all there with their mouths wide open flabbergasted that Peter was indeed walking on the water towards Jesus.



Peter sensed that Jesus' commands are His enablement's, that He gives strength for whatever He orders. – **William MacDonald**

Again, Jesus is teaching the disciples and the lesson is that at His command they can do the impossible by the power of Christ. There are two great truths in the N.T. 1) Without Christ we can do nothing (Jn. 15:5), but also 2) we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us (Phil. 4:13). We can't do anything on our own, but we can do all things that Christ commands us to do by His empowerment.

Peter is the only other person in the history of the world to miraculously walk on water – other than the Lord Himself – and of course he did it only at the command of Jesus and only by His enablement!

**30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!”**

Peter was bold and brash, but he was also very human. Peter did indeed by faith walk on the water at the command of Christ.

Faith is simply taking God at His Word. This is what Peter did. Jesus said to “**Come**” and Peter in faith responded. Faith appropriates the truth of God personally. So Peter started out really good – walking by faith!

We don't know how far Jesus was from the boat, but it must have been a ways. And as Peter got out there somewhere between the boat and Jesus he began to look around at the wind and the waves and suddenly natural reasoning started to kick in. During strong storms on the sea of Galilee the waves can be 10 feet high. That has a way of getting your attention.

Peter took his eyes off Jesus and looking around he failed to apply the command of Christ to “**not be afraid**”. Instead seeing the wind was boisterous “**he was afraid**”. Now we know from other texts that Peter knew how to swim (Jn. 21:7). But now evidently being some distance from the boat and being a ways off from Jesus with nothing but 10 foot waves in between he was terrified. He lost sight of Jesus and all he could see was the reality of these terrifying waves!

Peter initially stepped out in faith, but now he has lost sight of the Word of Christ. Faith was now lacking, and he was sinking fast. But even in that – there was still a “**little faith**” because he cried out, “**Lord, save me!**”

Once again, Peter uses the right designation saying, “**Lord**” – “**Lord save me!**” As sovereign-Master He can do something about the crisis!

This is one of the best prayers in all the Bible. It is a short prayer – but an earnest one from the heart! And this was a prayer that the Lord instantly responded to (cf. Ps. 40:1-3; 69:1-3).

Peter was a believer at this point. He had faith but in the midst of the storm when he lost focus, his faith began to wane. He began to doubt, but in his crisis he still had some faith to call on Jesus to save him. So, the problem here was a weak faith that began to doubt as Peter put his eyes on his crisis circumstances.

By way of application the act of saving faith in one way or another expresses this, “**Lord, save me!**” It sees Jesus as both Lord and Savior which is the essence of saving faith. Jesus is the Lord Who can save. He can be Savior because He is Lord. He is the Lord Who has the power and authority to save. That is why Lord and Savior is an indivisible package.

But then having recognized Christ as Lord and Savior the challenge is to be consistent with the truth that we know to be truth in our walk. That was the situation with Peter.

Whenever believers divert their eyes from Jesus in the midst of a storm, their circumstances assume prominence, and they, like Peter, lose heart and begin to sink. The difference between fear and faith is focus. – **David Jeremiah**

### **Slide # 9**



**31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”**

Note the Lord responded “**immediately**” to the prayer, “**Lord save me!**” Isn’t that wonderful! I am glad Jesus didn’t say, “*Peter, I am going to teach you the hard way – when you are coming up for the third time, I will do something for you.*”

No! Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him. Instantly, when Peter in effect cried out, “**HELP ME**” – instantly Jesus answered that crisis prayer.

How many times in our walk do we get off track and suddenly finding ourselves in dire straits we cry out “**Help Lord!**” and when we do Jesus is there. Jesus is there for us – even in our weakness – even in our failures – even in our little faith.

Note it wasn’t Peter who caught hold of Jesus – it was Jesus who caught Peter and lifted him right back on top of the water.

But just that quick Peter also got a stern lesson. Evidently as the two were walking back to the boat Jesus said to Peter, “**O you of little faith, why did you doubt?**”

This a rhetorical question that has no good answer. But it is rhetorical and self-evident. It was because Peter took his eyes off the Lord when he saw that the wind was so boisterous. There was no excuse for it – but that is what happened. As I say Peter was very human too!

Immediately Jesus caught Peter out of the water and immediately He then rebuked him as well. Peter started out well full of faith at the command of the Lord, but then in the midst of his circumstances he doubted. The command of the Lord should have been sufficient – after all Jesus was right there all along.

But again, this is so human. We know the Word of the Lord, we know His promises, but it is so easy to get distracted and just that quick have a bout of doubting. We don’t completely lose our faith but in the moment, we have little faith because our spiritual life is suddenly out of focus.

### **Slide # 10**

#### **Hebrews 12:2 (ESV)**

**2** looking to Jesus, the founder [**trailblazer**] and perfecter [**completer**] of our [**the**] faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

How do you remain strong and on course in the faith – keep your eyes on Jesus the One who models and lived out faith to perfection.

Being our great High Priest He can sympathize with our weaknesses and being at the right hand of God He is at the throne of grace to give mercy and grace to help us in our time of need as we call on Him (cf. Heb. 4:14-16).

Peter teaches us a great lesson. In our walk of faith, we must ever keep our focus on Jesus and His Word. Difficult circumstances can be a big distraction and being human we are very susceptible to doubting and being weak in our faith. We must stay focused lest we hear the words of Jesus in our experience, “***O you of little faith, why did you doubt?***”

But I would encourage us that even in our weakness if we have a bout with doubt – even so Christ is not done with you. He uses these failures as a teachable moment even as He did in the case of Peter.

This is yet another lesson on the LORDSHIP of Jesus. He is sovereign Lord who controls all. Peter said, “***Lord, if it You, command me to come***” (v. 28), and then he said, “***Lord, save me!***” (v. 30).

In saving Peter, Jesus showed Himself to be the LORD of all creation Who rescues those who in distress cry out to Him as seen in Psalm 107. Thus, Jesus shows Himself to be LORD (YHWH) as presented in the OT Scriptures such as Psalm 107.

### **Slide # 11**

#### **Psalm 107:25–28 (NKJV)**

**25** For He commands and raises the stormy wind, Which lifts up the waves of the sea.

**26** They mount up to the heavens, They go down again to the depths; Their soul melts because of trouble.

**27** They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, And are at their wits' end.

**28** Then they cry out to the LORD in their trouble, And He brings them out of their distresses.

Who does this? Repeatedly Psalm 107 says it is the LORD (YHWH) who does this. And here in Matthew 14 by way of application we see the LORD Jesus doing this on a very personal level with Peter.

And as we will see this truth was not lost on the disciples.

### **32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.**

When we consider the cross-reference passages there is a lot condensed into this verse. As I say, it appears that Jesus and Peter walked back to the boat together.

But when they got into the boat immediately the wind ceased. It went from ferociously boisterous in verse 30 to being perfectly wind still – just like that.

And not only that – we find in the cross-reference of John 6 that immediately the boat was at the destination to where they were going.

#### **Slide # 12**

##### **John 6:21 (NKJV)**

**21** Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and **immediately the boat was at the land where they were going.**

This too was a great miracle. They had been 3 or 4 miles out to sea, - in the “***middle of the sea***” as stated in verse 24. But then with Jesus coming on board - instantly they were at the land. That was a quick trip after all. It certainly had a miraculous ending. Blink and they were there.

#### **Slide # 13**

##### **Psalm 107:29–31 (NKJV)**

**29** **He calms the storm,** So that its **waves are still.**

**30** Then they are glad because they are quiet; So **He guides them to their desired haven.**

**31** Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness,  
And for His wonderful works to the children of men!

This miraculous experience with Jesus has all the character traits of God as presented in Psalm 107 written all over it.

God is the one who rescues His people from the sea (Ex. 14:10-15:21; Ps. 107:23-32; Jnh 1:4-2:10). Jesus took that prerogative for Himself and intimated that He was fulfilling this divine role.

– ***The Moody Bible Commentary***

**33 Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.”**

Here is the climax of the story! The disciples got it! Every Jew knew that God alone is to be worshipped. Worship is reserved for God alone. So in worshipping Jesus they were recognizing Him as God. They knew that God alone controls nature; God alone controls the storm. So Jesus, in doing this was clearly showing He was God and therefore worthy to be worshipped as God.

The word “**worship**” (Gk. *proskuneo*) literally means “**to fall down before**”. It is to reverently recognize the superior greatness and awe of the One being worshipped. Worship attributes reverence to God that is worthy only of God!

### **Slide # 14**

Worship cannot be generated from external activity; it flows from an inward attitude toward Christ. Too often worship is associated with music or some other human activity. The people of God need to see His awesomeness, His power, His incredible grace – then they will worship Him. Let the preacher focus on the God of Scripture to bring forth genuine worship, that which is in spirit and in truth.

**- Ed Glasscock**

Songs can indeed generate worship – as long as they are truly God-oriented and Word-centered. Too many songs (called worship) are in truth very man-centered catering merely to human emotions and feel-good sentiments. True worship is always God-centered and causes one in their heart to bow before Him in humble awe!

I call Psalm 29 the storm Psalm. It is one of my favorites. The whole emphasis is that the LORD’s glory is seen in His power to control the storm.

### **Slide # 15**

**Psalm 29:1–3 (NKJV)**

**1** Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones, Give unto the LORD **glory and strength.**

**2** Give unto the LORD the **glory due to His name;** **Worship** the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

**3** The voice of the LORD is over the waters; **The God of glory thunders; The LORD is over many waters.**

**Psalm 29:9 (NKJV)**

**9** The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth, And strips the forests bare; **And in His temple everyone says, “Glory!”**

The Jews knew that the glory of the LORD is seen in His power which is on display in the storm. Jesus exhibited this power -this glory. And therefore they rightly worshipped Him saying, “***Truly You are the Son of God.***”

### **Slide # 16**

**John 5:18 (NKJV)**

**18** Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that **God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.**

The title “***Son of God***” is a Messianic title which designates the Messiah as One Who comes forth from God and actually shares in the very nature of God (cf. Matt. 3:17; Jn. 1:49). It is a way of saying that **Jesus is God of very God!** And as we study the whole counsel of God we find the reality of a Triune God consisting of ONE Godhead and yet there are three persons in this one Godhead.

The Trinity is a profound mystery that defies comprehension and yet by faith we take God at His revelation. There is only ONE God and yet three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) make up this ONE God.

Later that same day Peter would again affirm this same “Son of God” truth brought out here in Matt. 14:33.

### **Slide # 17**

**John 6:68–69 (NKJV)**

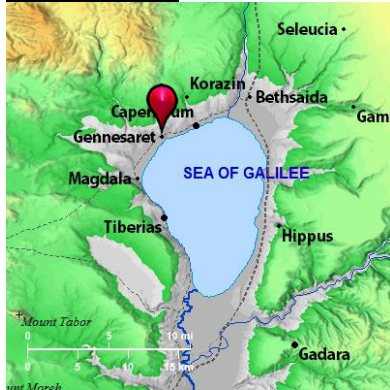
**68** But Simon Peter answered Him, “**Lord,** to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

**69** Also we have come to believe and know that You are **the Christ,** the **Son of the living God.**”

**34** When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret.

The area of Gennesaret was on the western side of the lake. It was a very fertile plain about 4 miles long and 2 miles wide. It also had a town by the same name which was located about 5 miles south of Capernaum.

### ***Slide # 18***



**35 And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent out into all that surrounding region, brought to Him all who were sick,**

At this point wherever Jesus went in this region He had a massive following because the word was out that He could heal. Note here they brought to Him ALL who were sick.

**36 and begged Him that they might only touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched it were made perfectly well.**

Jewish men commonly wore tassels on the hem of their robes in accordance with the instruction of the Mosaic law as seen in Deut. 22:12. These tassels came to be seen as symbols of holiness because as the covenant people of God they were called to be holy (cf. Mt. 23:5).

This idea of merely touching the hem of His garment would bring healing was perhaps propagated by the earlier healing of a woman who had a flow of blood for 12 years and said to herself, ***“If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well.”*** She did and she was healed as seen in Mt. 9:20-22. This woman was from the nearby area of Capernaum and so perhaps news of her experience got around and started a sort of a ***“touch the hem of His garment”*** movement.

Jesus had power over every realm; over the physical realm of disease; over the spiritual realm of demons; and over the natural realm of nature. Indeed, He is shown to be Lord over all at every juncture. And of course this is what would be expected out of Messiah-God.



Still, most of the people being healed did not really understand the significance of Who Jesus was. The disciples finally were getting it as noted, but the multitudes were into Jesus pretty much for what He could do for them and not because of WHO He was. Thus, they missed the central point.

But there may be another reason for Matthew including this footnote on Jesus healing ministry here. The Pharisees thought it to be an abomination to rub shoulders with the common people thinking one could easily contract ceremonial uncleanness if you touched an unclean person.

But Jesus had no such concern. He was never defiled by uncleanness. Instead, His power turned the unclean into clean. But this sets the stage for confrontation with the religious leaders over clean versus unclean as will be addressed in the next chapter in Matthew 15.

While discussing [the latest archaeological find](#), I mused aloud to my wife:

"Hon, I was just thinking...

"The Gnostics pointed to the 'mystical' Jesus,

"Arius pointed to the 'created' Jesus,

"Mohammed pointed to the 'prophet' Jesus,

"Higher criticism pointed to the 'historical' Jesus,

"Liberal theology pointed to the 'life-model' Jesus,

"Postmodernism points to the 'experiential' Jesus,

"Dan Brown pointed to the 'mythical' Jesus,

... That seems like an exploding trend in Jesuses, huh?"

To which my ever brilliant and lovely wife replied, "I wonder if that's what Jesus meant when he said, in latter times many will come saying '**Look, here is the Christ!**'"

"Hon, I think you're on to something!" - *Regis Nicoll*

Freelance Writer, Speaker, Worldview Teacher, Men's Ministry Leader  
Is James Cameron Fulfilling Prophecy?

Where do we find the real Jesus? Well, we find Him on the pages of holy Scripture; we find Him in history in the fulfillment of prophecy; we find Him doing what only God can do because indeed He is the God-Man. And if you have truly come to see Him for Who He is – if you have truly come to faith – then you have come to worship Him for Who He is as the Son of God. True faith embraces Him as Savior and Lord. As Savior He died for all our sins and as Lord over all He arose the third day. True believers worship Jesus as personal Lord-God and Savior! As Paul indicated – the true people of God are those who “worship God in the Spirit” (Phil. 3:3). Be among them!