### Walking on Water

**And in the fourth watch of the night,**

**Jesus came to them, walking on the water.**

**And his disciples saw him walking on the water,**

**and they were frightened, and they said,**

 **It is a false vision; and they cried out because of their fear.**

***(St. Matthew 14:25-26)***

 **According to Aramaic style of speech, walking on the sea means walking by the sea or along the shore. (George M. Lamsa, in Gospel Light, p. 338)**

**Being a fervent believer in miracles, I would not contest the evidence of my own eyes were I to observe someone, whether Galilean carpenter or London stockbroker, walking on water. At the same time, I wouldn't regard what I had seen as a conclusive argument against learning to swim. (Colin Morris, in The Hammer of the Lord, p. 78)**

**The best time to walk on the water is during the winter when the water is frozen, especially if you like to ice skate. (David J. Seibert)**

**Demons and evil spirits play an important part in the life of Oriental people. Belief in unseen spirits is so ingrained that specific religious laws are enacted in their behalf. Fear of spirits is so strong, an innocent man walking at dark by the seashore or near a cemetery may be mistaken for a spirit. The fear of the disciples was due to this strange belief but Jesus promptly assured them it was he and not a spirit. (George M. Lamsa, in Gospel Light, p. 98)**

**An evangelical preacher in the West African nation of Gabon apparently drowned while attempting to demonstrate a biblical miracle. “He told churchgoers he’d had a revelation that he had enough faith, he could walk on water like Jesus,” said an eyewitness. “He walked into the water, which soon passed over his head, and he never came back.” *(The Week magazine, September 15, 2006)***

**If one morning I walked on top of the water across the Potomac River, the headline that afternoon would read: “President Can’t Swim.” *(Lyndon Baines Johnson)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Oceans have only one sort of insect. The halobates, sometimes called the sea strider, walks on waves. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**HOW TO WALK ON WATER: Water-striding insects skim across the surface of a pond with no effort at all, but a team of MIT mathematicians had to work hard to figure out how they do it. John Bush and his graduate student David Hu set up vats of dyed water and high-speed video cameras to catch the striders in action. Using this setup, Bush and Hu could see that they row with their center legs, even though surface tension keeps the insects from dipping into the water. “It’s sort of like the breaststroke, but they don’t break the surface. When they push down on the water, they create a small valley, called a meniscus, and that acts like an oar,” Hu says. The middle legs press against the back wall of the meniscus, pushing the insect forward and transferring momentum to a series of vortices in the water. To prove this result, MIT mechanical-engineering graduate student Brian Chan built a four-inch-long robot that uses the same technique. It water-walked successfully, if not quite as elegantly as its living counterpart. *(Fenella Saunders, in Discover magazine)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**A South American lizard can walk on water, but not for very long. It has powerful back legs and broad feet with fringed toes that keep it afloat. When scared by a predator, the lizard leaps from the riverbank and dashes across the water for as long as it can. Once it sinks, it can stay underwater for up to two minutes. *(The Diagram Group, in Funky, Freaky Facts, p. 143)***

**A Methodist, an Episcopalian and a Catholic were in a boat 25 yards from shore. The Methodist stepped out and nonchalantly walked to land. The Episcopalian duplicated the exit on the water. Then the Catholic stepped out and sank. Coming up, he got back in the boat, walked out and went under again. One dry friend on shore said to the other, “Do you think we should tell him where the rocks are?” (Gene Brown)**

**Sign in front of a local church: Sunday services: 9:30 a.m. – Theme: Jesus Walks on Water. 5:00 p.m. – Theme: Searching for Jesus. (Liguorian)**

**When a tidal wave is about to hit a coastline the water first recedes all the way to the horizon. If a person were foolish enough to do so, he could walk out several miles before the wave came smashing ashore. (David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 154)**

**On one of their visits to the Holy Land, Mark Twain and his wife stayed in Capernaum near the Sea of Galilee. One particularly lovely night Twain decided to take his wife on a romantic moonlit ride on the Sea of Galilee. Dressed in his usual white Texas hat, white suit, and white shoes, Twain strolled down the pier with his wife. He asked a man who was sitting in a nearby rowboat how much he would charge to row them out into the water. Presuming this fine-looking man to be a wealthy Texan from the states, the oarsman said he would charge about twenty-five dollars. After thanking the man, Mark Twain was heard to proclaim as he and his wife turned away, “No wonder Jesus chose to walk!” (King Duncan & Angela Akers, in Amusing Grace, p. 446)**

**Sir Eric Geary, once the prime minister of Grenada, had his hired help build an underwater platform in his yacht basin. Top was submerged an inch or so. Anytime he stepped off his boat, it appeared to observers ashore that he walked on the water. (L. M. Boyd)**

**The legendary Paul “Bear” Bryant, head football coach at the University of Alabama, at one point was the winningest coach in college football history, with 323 victories. He was once asked whether it was true that he could walk on water. “I won’t say I can or I can’t,” he replied. “But if I do, I do it before most people get up in the morning.” Many famous writers find that they’re able to do their best writing in the morning, when they’re fresh. As Ben Franklin noted in Poor Richard’s Almanac: “The muses love the morning.” (Ben Franklin’s Almanac, p. 22)**

**All her life, Victoria was told that the women in her family were able to walk on water on their 21st birthdays. It didn't seem possible, but her mother assured her it was true. So on her 21st birthday, Victoria takes a boat out onto the lake, steps off, and sinks. Back on land, Victoria confronts her mother. "You told me that every woman in our family could walk on water on her 21st birthday!" "It's true," says her mother. "But when I just tried it, I nearly drowned!" "That's because your sisters and I were all born in December. You were born in July." (Sharon Delaney-Chronis, in Reader's Digest)**

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