

Mark 6:48

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.

Analysis

And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them. Jesus 'saw them toiling in rowing'—despite physical distance and darkness, He observed their struggle. 'Fourth watch' (3-6 AM) meant hours of exhausting labor. He came 'walking upon the sea,' demonstrating authority over creation. 'Would have passed by them' echoes God's self-revelation to Moses (Exodus 33:19-23) and Elijah (1 Kings 19:11), suggesting theophanic significance.

Historical Context

Romans divided night into four watches; fourth watch was pre-dawn (3-6 AM). Walking on water defied natural law, proving Jesus' deity. Ancient Jewish thought held only God trod upon sea's waves (Job 9:8). The phrase 'would have passed by' used theophanic language of God's glory passing before prophets, revealing divine presence.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does this verse teach about Christ's nature and work?
2. How should this truth shape our daily discipleship?

Interlinear Text

καὶ εἶδεν αὐτούς βασανιζομένους ἐν τῷ ἐλαύνειν ἦν
And he saw them toiling in rowing was
G2532 G1492 G846 G928 G3588 G1722 G1643 G2258

γὰρ ὁ ἄνεμος ἐναντίος αὐτούς καὶ περὶ τετάρτην
for the wind contrary them And about the fourth
G1063 G3588 G417 G1727 G846 G2532 G4012 G5067

φυλακὴν τῆς νυκτὸς ἔρχεται πρὸς αὐτούς περιπατῶν
watch of the night he cometh unto them walking
G5438 G3588 G3571 G2064 G4314 G846 G4043

ἐπὶ τῆς θαλάσσης· καὶ ἥθελεν παρελθεῖν αὐτούς
upon the sea And would have passed by them
G1909 G3588 G2281 G2532 G2309 G3928 G846

Additional Cross-References

Job 9:8 (Parallel theme): Which alone spreadeth out the heavens, and treadeth upon the waves of the sea.

Luke 24:28 (Parallel theme): And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further.

Luke 12:38 (Parallel theme): And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.