

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

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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	G3588	rowing	was
G2532	G1492	G846	G928	G1722		G1643	G2258
γὰρ	ὁ	ἄνεμος	ἐναντίος	αὐτούς	καὶ	περὶ	τετάρτην
for	G3588	the wind	contrary	them	And	about	the fourth
G1063		G417	G1727	G846	G2532	G4012	G5067
φυλακὴν	τῆς	νυκτὸς	ἔρχεται	πρὸς	αὐτούς	περιπατῶν	
watch	G3588	of the night	he cometh	unto	them	walking	
G5438		G3571	G2064	G4314	G846	G4043	
ἐπὶ	τῆς	θαλάσσης·	καὶ	ἤθελεν	παρελθεῖν	αὐτούς	
upon	G3588	the sea	And	would	have passed by	them	
G1909		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.