

# Matthew 14:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

## Analysis

**Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him** (οἱ δὲ ἐν τῷ πλοίῳ προσεκύνησαν αὐτῷ)—The verb προσκυνέω (proskyneō) means 'to prostrate, to worship, to pay homage.' This worship response is qualitatively different from earlier amazement (8:27). Having witnessed Jesus walk on water, calm Peter's sinking, and instantly still the storm, they now worship—the only proper response to manifest deity. Matthew uses προσκυνέω exclusively for worship directed to God or falsely to Satan (4:9-10), never for mere human respect.

**Saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God** (λέγοντες, Ἀληθῶς θεοῦ υἱὸς εἶ)—The adverb ἀληθῶς (alēthōs, 'truly, really, of a surety') emphasizes their conviction. The anarthrous θεοῦ υἱός ('Son of God') may be either definite by nature of the title or qualitative ('a divine son'), but the context—worship and storm mastery—demands the messianic, ontological sense: Jesus is the unique Son who shares the Father's divine nature (Psalm 2:7; 2 Samuel 7:14). This confession anticipates Peter's later declaration (16:16).

## Historical Context

This boat confession occurs roughly midway through Jesus's ministry (ca. AD 29), after the disciples had been with Him for over a year. They had witnessed many miracles but had not yet clearly confessed His deity. The Jewish strict monotheism made such a confession momentous—they were acknowledging Jesus as Yahweh

incarnate, not merely a prophet or messiah in a purely human sense. This prepared them for later post-resurrection worship (28:9, 17).

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. Have you moved from amazement at Jesus's works to worship of His person?
2. What experiences have brought you to deeper confession of Christ's deity beyond intellectual assent?

## Interlinear Text

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οἱ	δὲ	ἐν	τῷ	πλοίῳ	ἐλθόντες	προσεκύνησαν
G3588	<b>Then</b> G1161	<b>they that were in</b> G1722	G3588	<b>the ship</b> G4143	<b>came</b> G2064	<b>and worshipped</b> G4352
αὐτῷ	λέγοντες	Ἀληθῶς	θεοῦ	υἱὸς	εἶ	
<b>him</b> G846	<b>saying</b> G3004	<b>Of a truth</b> G230	<b>of God</b> G2316	<b>the Son</b> G5207	<b>thou art</b> G1488	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 2:7** (Parallel theme): I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

**John 11:27** (References God): She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

**John 1:49** (References God): Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

**Mark 1:1** (References God): The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;

**Romans 1:4** (References God): And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

**Matthew 16:16** (References God): And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

**John 6:69** (References God): And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

**Mark 15:39** (References God): And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God.

**Matthew 26:63** (References God): But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.

**Matthew 28:17** (Worship): And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.