

**Exegetical Notes, John 6:15-21**  
**“Water Walking & Speed Boats”**

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**John 6:15-21**

**Verses 15-17**

*Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself. <sup>16</sup> When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, <sup>17</sup> where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them.*

- Jesus understood the intentions of the crowd following the feeding of the 5,000. They intended to make him their king, but his time had not yet come. So he withdrew from them to a secluded place.
- According to Mark 6:45, Jesus told the disciples to get in a boat and head for Capernaum while he dismissed the crowd. They would have assumed that Jesus would follow by land later.
- After dark the disciples were rowing across the Sea of Galilee toward Capernaum.

**Verses 18-20**

*A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. <sup>19</sup> When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened. <sup>20</sup> But he said to them, “It is I; don’t be afraid.”*

- A strong wind was blowing against them and inhibiting their progress. They had struggled against the wind and were 3 to 3 1/2 miles from shore when Jesus came to them without a boat, walking on top of the water.
- Naturally, this frightened them. Mark 6:47 says that they were terrified because they thought they were seeing a ghost (Matthew 14:26.)
- Jesus identified himself and told them not to be afraid.

**Verse 21**

*Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.*

- After the disciples recognized Jesus, he got into their boat and the boat was instantly at its destination.

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