

**The Character of Jesus 31**  
**Matthew 14:13 – 36, Mark 6:30 – 56, Luke 9:10 – 17, John 6:1 – 21**  
**Around the Northeast Side of Galilee**

- Following the Matthew account
- Characteristic: Challenging others to step up in faith
  - (13) Whether Jesus departed out of grief over the death of John, or to debrief after the sending out of the Twelve, or just to rest is not given.
  - (14) “Moved by compassion.” The crowd showed some level of faith to come to a rural area, confident that Jesus could and would heal the sick they brought along. He had compassion with their concern for loved ones who needed healing.
  - (15 – 17) Jesus did not just give the disciples the answer but rather challenged them to solve the problem.
  - (18 – 21) Jesus organized the disciples to materially participate, not just watch.
  - (22 – 23) Jesus had sent them ahead before. However, since they are later surprised when Jesus shows up on the water, apparently their re-joining had not been planned. They took off for the other side without a complete plan.
  - (24 – 27) Certainly Jesus knew that this encounter would be frightening. He did it anyway.
  - (28 – 33) Jesus allowed Peter to take a risk, and, when he panicked, commented on his lack of faith.
  - (34 – 36) Although they came for healing and not the Word, Jesus accommodated them.
- Application: Challenging others to step up in faith
  - Are we moved by compassion at the plight of outsiders?
    - Do we differentiate between those with fledgling faith and those who want a handout only.
    - Do we assume that outsiders are doing the best they can with what they have?
    - Do we show them something miraculous or do we opt for the mundane?
  - Do we provide opportunities for the weak in faith to exercise that faith, even when we know they will not know what to do?
    - Let them be convinced that it cannot be done so they will realize that the impossible has been accomplished.
    - Let them participate rather than just watch.
    - Plan to surprise them with impossible results.
    - Let them take risks and let them fail. But, make it a teaching moment.
    - Accommodate low-impact attempts to exercise faith.