

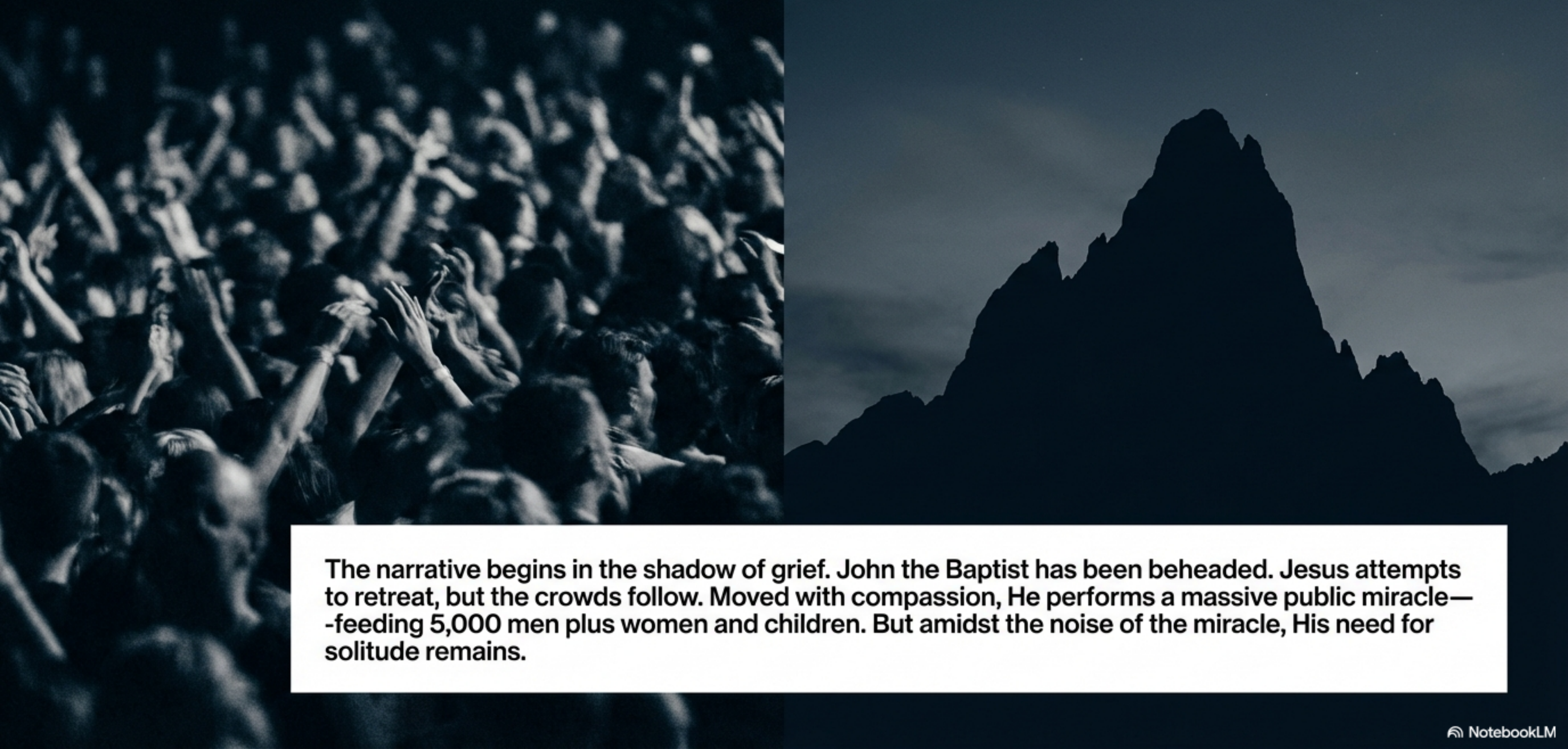


WALK WITH ME

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE FOURTH WATCH

Based on the sermon by Pastor Wallin O'Connor | January 31, 2026

Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal.



The narrative begins in the shadow of grief. John the Baptist has been beheaded. Jesus attempts to retreat, but the crowds follow. Moved with compassion, He performs a massive public miracle—feeding 5,000 men plus women and children. But amidst the noise of the miracle, His need for solitude remains.

The Solitude

Jesus compels the disciples to get into the boat and go to the other side. He dismisses the multitudes to go up on the mountain by Himself to pray.

“There is a time for corporate prayer, but certain pains require a one-on-one battle. The only way to heal from deep grief is to go directly to the Father.”



The Fourth Watch

The disciples launched in the afternoon. Now, it is the “Fourth Watch” (3:00 AM – 6:00 AM)—the time of greatest exhaustion when the body is most drained.

They have been rowing for hours, toiling against a contrary wind, physically depleted in the deepest darkness.



Fear of the Unknown

Jesus approaches them, walking on the sea. The disciples do not see a Savior; they see a "ghost." In their culture, spirits of the dead were believed to linger.

Terror grips them. They scream out in fear because they mistake the solution for a threat.

The Voice in the Dark

I AM

Jesus responds to their fear immediately.
“Be of good cheer. It is I; do not be afraid.”

This echoes the divine name given to Moses.
He is not just a man walking; He is the “I AM” who
will be whatever is needed in that moment.

The Imperative

Peter: “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.”

COME.

In the original Greek, this is an imperative. It is not a suggestion; it is a directive. Peter moves from fear to obedience based on a single word.

Stepping Out



**Peter climbs out of the boat. As his foot hits the water, the liquid becomes solid.
It is no longer buoyant; it is firm.**

He begins to walk toward Jesus, eyes locked on the Source of the command.

Seeing the Wind

Peter is walking until his focus shifts. He sees the wind.



We do not see wind itself; we see the *results* of the wind—the waves, the destruction, the chaos.

Peter stops looking at the Source (Jesus) and starts looking at the Situation (The Storm). Fear rushes back in.

The Sink

The moment Peter takes his eyes off Jesus, the supernatural suspension ends. Gravity and nature reclaim him.



"Lord, save me!"



IMMEDIATELY

The Rescue

Jesus is a distance away.
By physics, Peter should
drown before Jesus arrives.

Key Insight:

God closes the gap
in a millisecond.
He is not confined to
time and space. He
doesn't wait for an
eloquent prayer; He
responds to the cry.



The Question

Jesus catches him.
“O you of little faith,
why did you doubt?”

Just 24 hours prior, they
saw Him feed 5,000. They
have seen Him calm storms
before. The evidence was
there, but the faith wavered.

The 11 vs. The 1

“THE 11”

- Stayed in the boat.
- Chose safety and the known.
- Relied on human security.
- The Observers.

“THE 1 (PETER)”

- Stepped on the water.
- Chose risk and the supernatural.
- Relied on proximity to Jesus.
- The Participant.

Where are we today?

The Choice for 2026

“It is safer on the water with Jesus
than in the boat without Him.”

11 decided it was safer in the boat.
One decided it was safer to be on the water with Jesus.
If He bids you come, go.

Focus on the Source

We will not focus on the storm.
We will focus on the One who calms the storm.

Anywhere with Jesus, I can safely go.

WALK WITH ME