

Daily Bible Study

“No Fear of The Storm”

Mark 6:45-56

July 11 - 17, 2010

THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY – We return to our study of the Gospel of Mark and we pick up our text, **Mark 6:45-56** as we look at a lesson entitled “*No Fear of The Storm*”. This passage of Scripture contains for us the well known story of Jesus walking on the water although there is much more here for us to learn than the mere wonder and amazement of the miracle of Jesus walking on a stormy sea. In this text we see the dependence of the disciples on Jesus. We see they were so slow to recognize all there was to know of The Lord Jesus and Christ demonstrates His love, concern, and patience with His followers as well as His power to overcome ALL circumstances that may arise. Jesus not only had *No Fear of the Storm* in fact, He was in perfect control of it and orchestrates every detail of this entire account for His glory, (the Glory of God) and the good and growth of His men. After being delivered from the peril of the stormy sea we find the disciples astonished and worshipful of the Lord Jesus. Then after their landing on shore we see the folk recognize Jesus and like a magnet draws metal fragments, these people come to touch Jesus and we find that those who do, are healed. Let’s begin with reading our text. **Mark 6:45-56** *“Immediately He made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while He sent the multitude away. And when He had sent them away, He departed to the mountain to pray. Now when evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea; and He was alone on the land. Then He saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them. Now about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea, and would have passed them by. And when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed it was a ghost, and cried out; for they all saw Him and were troubled. But immediately He talked with them and said to them, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.” Then He went up into the boat to them, and the wind ceased. And they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marveled. For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened. When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret and anchored there. And when they came out of the boat, immediately the people recognized Him, ran through that whole surrounding region, and began to carry about on beds those who were sick to wherever they heard He was. Wherever He entered, into villages, cities, or the country, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged Him that they might just touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched Him were made well.”*

The Word Applied: How did God speak to me from His word today & how can I apply it to my life?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father God, Teach me from Your Word this week. Help me see Jesus.

TUESDAY – **Mark 6:45-46** “*Immediately He made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while He sent the multitude away. And when He had sent them away, He departed to the mountain to pray.*” This story of Jesus walking on the water is found in Matthew, Mark, and John’s gospel records. All the writers bring their own style and unique emphasis to the account. John gives us one reason Jesus makes *His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, to Bethsaida*, and why *He sent the multitude away*. The reason is as John records that “*He perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king*”. The people were caught up in this euphoric moment of the miracle of Jesus creating food and feeding 5,000+ from 5 loaves and 2 fish. They are pumped up and want to make Jesus King. Their thoughts are most likely along the lines of, “If He can do this He can do anything, He can defeat our enemies and liberate us from oppression, etc...” Interestingly, Jesus as the sovereign God knows they are thinking this and furthermore He knows the vulnerability of even His disciples to get caught up in the moment and He therefore takes action. *He made*, (the Greek word speaks of compelling or driving) *His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while He sent the multitude away*. Jesus sends away His men lest they too be influenced by the multitudes clamoring. As a footnote, Jesus was a King, but He was building a spiritual kingdom and not an earthly one (**Luke 1:31-33, John 18:33-37**). Jesus wasn’t merely emptying the parking lot here, the text tells us another reason Jesus took the action He did; *He departed to the mountain to pray*. Christ was going up into the mountain to commune with The Father. This was His custom as well as we have studied in weeks past on Wednesday nights. It was in prayer with The Father that Jesus was truly refreshed and gained strength for His mission to the cross as well as where He prayed for His followers among other things; to believe in Him, grow in their faith, be strengthened, and be truly unified (**Luke 22:32, John 17:20-23**).

The Word Applied: How did God speak to me from His word today & how can I apply it to my life?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father God, help me to see above the temporal circumstances, to know and understand Jesus better; both His person and work for me as Your child. Also, teach me to pray.

WEDNESDAY – **Mark 6:47-50a** “*Now when evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea; and He was alone on the land. Then He saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them. Now about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea, and would have passed them by. And when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed it was a ghost, and cried out; for they all saw Him and were troubled.*” We read that the disciples followed the instruction of our Lord and they are out in *the boat* on the sea. The problem is that Mark lets us know the day has passed and it is *evening* when they are into this boating excursion and they find themselves *in the middle of the sea* because as Mark informs us, *the wind was against them*. Matthew records they were being *tossed* (torture, vex, harass, distress) *by the waves* while John states *the sea arose because a great* (megas – “mega”) *wind was blowing*. Putting all the facts together we see that it is a dire picture; *evening*, darkness has come, their in *the middle of the sea* because of a distressing *wind*, and most certainly the worst thing is they are absent the

physical presence of Jesus as He is *alone* on land. Incredible and ironic is the fact that while these men no doubt were frightened for their lives and well being Jesus was most likely at the very same time praying for their well being, safety, and spiritual growth. Although it is just in a physical manner, these men here illustrate something that I can't over-emphasize enough; the dire and horrible condition of an individual without Jesus (**1 John 5:12, John 3:36**). Although they only see the storm and feel the fear of uncertainty in the *fourth watch* (3-6am) we find that as they were *straining at rowing...He saw them*. The Lord is not unaware of the situation you find yourself in Beloved. He is Sovereign and in perfect control as He orchestrates life's circumstances for His glory and your good (**Romans 8:28**). The sovereign control of Jesus now comes into perfect view as we read *He came to them, walking on the sea, and would have passed them by...* Jesus comes peripateo (to walk, to make ones way, progress). He isn't hindered or harassed by the waves or wind He makes steady progress as the God man in complete control. The original language indicates that Jesus intention was to come along side and allow the disciples to see Him and call out to Him and invite Him aboard to save this voyage and them. More on this tomorrow.

The Word Applied: How did God speak to me from His word today & how can I apply it to my life?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help me to know the peace of understanding You are in perfect control of all situations. Give me eyes to see Your hand in my life even in difficult circumstances.

THURSDAY – Mark 6:49-52 “*And when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed it was a ghost, and cried out; for they all saw Him and were troubled. But immediately He talked with them and said to them, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.” Then He went up into the boat to them, and the wind ceased. And they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marveled. For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened.*” We need to touch on a point that is present in the final portion of yesterday's study where we left off. It seems from the Greek text that Jesus was intentionally walking so the disciples would see Him and call out to Him; He was in perfect control of these events. The point we must see is that Divine Sovereignty does not rule out human responsibility. As Hendrickson states, “Election is not inconsistent with exertion” (**Philippians 2:12**). Does not **John 6:21** seem to affirm this matter. Continuing on, as Jesus comes walking on the sea and the disciples get a view of Him, they are *troubled* and they suppose *He is a ghost* and they *cried out*. We are quick to criticize the disciples but put yourself in the seat of the boat with an oar in your hand. You see something that looks like a man *walking on the sea* and you ask yourself, is this for real? Men don't walk on water and this is why they *cried out*. We need to be patient with our criticisms in light of our weak faith in considerably less dire straits. The Lord not only has the perception (knowledge) that we saw demonstrated Tuesday from John's gospel record, but He also has the power; all power. This is why we read that Jesus *immediately* initiates the conversation and He calls out, “*Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid*”. These words are common to Jesus and He frequently uses them in the New Testament record. It is me boys, your savior, your Lord, there is no reason to be afraid. What comforting words! John tells us that the disciples *willingly received Him into the*

boat and we see that it was then the wind ceased and John ads, immediately the boat was at the land where they were going. The story of Peter walking on the water to Jesus is only recorded by Matthew. We find they were greatly amazed...beyond measure for the simple fact they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened. They had failed to see and grasp the real significance in the feeding of the 5000. The trouble was with their hearts; they were hardened (calloused, dull).

The Word Applied: How did God speak to me from His word today & how can I apply it to my life?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, give me the desire and power to choose to obey, love and trust You.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY – Mark 6:53-56 “When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret and anchored there. And when they came out of the boat, immediately the people recognized Him, ran through that whole surrounding region, and began to carry about on beds those who were sick to wherever they heard He was. Wherever He entered, into villages, cities, or the country, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged Him that they might just touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched Him were made well.” An incredible amount is taking place in these narratives and unfolding the story by way of comparison of the gospel records is necessary in order to capture the entire picture. In short, as usual, Jesus is recognized and draws a crowd. **John 6:22-24** seems to indicate that the crowd that had eaten of the miraculous feeding the day before apparently slept somewhere there where the miracle had occurred. We are told that they also boarded *boats* and sailed over to this other side *seeking Jesus*. Upon finding Christ, Mark here informs us again of the healing ministry of Jesus as the people just come to Him in droves some of them even just touching the *hem of His garment* and they *were made well*. Jesus eventually makes His way to the Synagogue in Capernaum (**John 6:59**) where He delivers His famous sermon discourse about Him being the true *bread of life* (**John 6:26-66**). We see both the sympathy and compassion of Jesus upon the people as He heals them. We also see Christ makes clear that they need much more than physical healing and fish and bread to eat; they need to come to Him, *believe* in Him, be *taught by God*, *eat His flesh and drink His blood* which is to say, feed on Him by faith.

The Word Applied: How did God speak to me from His word today & how can I apply it to my life?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, teach me and help me come to Jesus in repentant faith and feed on Him. Thank You Jesus for Your power to save, heal, and deliver from sin and its consequences.