

Title: The One Who Walks on Water

Passage: Mark 6:45-52

Context of Passage:

Jesus' feeding of 5,000 men (20,000-25,000 including women and children)

Passage: Mark 6:45-52

Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray. And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them, but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

Introduction

Question: If there is one true God of the Universe, would you want to know Him?

- the heart of God is that You would know Him

Question: What circumstance or concern do you find yourself where you have a choice: 1) throw yourself to the lordship of Christ or 2) throw yourself back in despair?

EXPOSITION

Passage: we can see Christ and understand potential responses to Him.

Jesus Commands His Disciples

Verse. 45

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while He sent the crowd away

Immediately

- followed the feeding of 5,000 = a great miracle that people saw = great politically charged situation = wanting to take Jesus and make Him king earthly by force = temptation to bask in popularity

Jesus made His disciples

- Jesus purposefully sent them into waters where they would encounter a great storm
- Jesus has the disciples exactly where He wanted them to be

- Likewise, Jesus places or leads us in circumstances that have one purpose: reveal Himself in a way that we wouldn't have otherwise.
 - In relationship, we come to know how much God loves us and sustains us.

2 Corinthians 12:8-9

Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Luke 9:23

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

Jesus prays for His disciples

Verse 46

And after He had taken leave of them, He went up on the mountain to pray

To pray:

- Jesus recorded in Mark having prayed - 3 times

Mark 1:35 (beginning of ministry)

And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.

Mark 6:46 (immediately after miracle)

And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray.

Mark 14:35 (Garden of Gethsamene immediately before the cross)

And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.

Quote: "Until you believe life is a war, you cannot know what prayer is for."

Ephesians 6:10-12, 18

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

Jesus in prayer

Luke 22:31-32

"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

John 17:15-17 (Jesus High Priestly Prayer)

I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

Jesus current ministry: Intercessory prayer

Hebrews 7:25

Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

Romans 8:34

Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Application: As Jesus prayed, how much more do we recognize the power of prayer over others?

- be faithful in prayer

James 5:16b

The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Psalms 127:1

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

Luke 9:25

For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?

Application: How pray for others? Pray that they

- have a Place in His kingdom
- be a Picture of His kingdom (be like Jesus)
- be used of God to Promote His kingdom (lives count for Him)

Verse 47-48

And when the evening came, the boat was out in the middle of the sea and He was alone on the land. And seeing them straining at the oars, for the wind was against them, at about the fourth watch of the night, He came to them, walking on the sea. And He was about to pass by them.

About the fourth watch of the night

- 3-6am
- Due to the force of the winds, the disciples had been rowing for about 6 hours already

And seeing them straining at the oars, for the wind was against them,

- disciples were obedient, which led them to an uncomfortable, difficult, impossible situation.

- It was obedience that led them into difficult circumstances.
 - Likewise, obedience will lead into challenge.
- When you obey Jesus, there will be a cost.
 - But there is always hope for life eternal with Jesus in heaven and the unspeakable glories that brings.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

And seeing them

- Jesus sees and knows every intimate detail of our lives.

Psalms 139:1, 7-10

O Lord, you have searched me and known me!...Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

Jesus comes to His disciples

Verse 48-49

And seeing them straining at the oars, for the wind was against them, at about the fourth watch of the night, He came to them, walking on the sea. And He was about to pass by them. But when they saw Him walking on the sea, they thought that it was a ghost, and cried out

He came to them

- Who came to them? Jesus
- Who is Jesus?

Colossians 1:15-17

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Job 9:8-10

who alone stretched out the heavens and trampled the waves of the sea; who made the Bear and Orion, the Pleiades and the chambers of the south; who does great things beyond searching out, and marvelous things beyond number.

Verse 50

But immediately He spoke to them and said, "Take courage; it is I. Do not be afraid."

Do not be afraid

- the heart of Jesus is to remove you from fear

Philippians 4:6-7

do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Verse 51

Then He got into the boat with them, and the wind stopped; and they were utterly astonished,

- Jesus got in with them (not distant)
- Wind stopped (immediate result)
- They were utterly astonished (reaction as a result of this - which was not what occurred after feeding of 5,000)

Verse 52

For they had not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves, for their heart was hardened

- In trial, God revealed Himself that did not exist in miraculous provision.
- Success is merely an experience but trial is a wise teacher of the heart.

APPLICATION

Do you see God as who He really is?

- Sovereign
- All-seeing
- All-powerful to sustain
- Praying over you
- Compassionate

Isaiah 49:15-16

Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me.

Psalms 46:1

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Jude 1:24-25

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.