

MARK 6:45-56 LESSONS

INTRO:

- Feeding of the 5000, etc.
- This is the second storm we read of in Mark, the first was in chapter 4 where they were again afraid of loss of life even when Jesus was with them sleeping in the rear of the boat.

READ MARK 6:45-56

- This sea crossing had a number of miracles; Jesus walking on the water, Peter coming down to Jesus on the water, Jesus calming the sea and the boat instantly arriving at their desired shore.
- Here in Mark's gospel he does not mention Peter stepping onto the water.
- Finding ourselves in trials or tribulations is not an automatic sign that we are in sin or disobedience.
- Here the disciples were commanded to go across the sea which led them into the storm.
- Think of Joseph, Daniel, the 3 Hebrew youths, Jesus led into the wilderness.
 - 2 Tim. 3:12; Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.
- Why did Jesus send them away so abruptly?
- Why did Jesus send them into a storm?
- Why did Jesus walk out on the sea to still the storm and save them. (He could have done that from the shore.)
- These things will be answered for us in the text.

Vs. 45 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.

- **Made:** to put constraint upon, 'necessity, to constrain,' whether by threat, entreaty, force or persuasion.
- Jesus knowing the weakness of disciples felt it imperative to send them away. Their susceptibility to fame and power made them vulnerable to their self-love and deadly pride.
- Jesus felt the storm was safer for them than the temptations of power and ego.
- So He does with us as well. He knows us best and what is the best way for us to go and to know humility.
- Real discipleship and true obedience accepts, even in the midst of the unknown and the questions. It trusts its Lord.

VS. 46 And when He had sent them away, He departed to the mountain to pray.

- Jesus departs for prayer. His body desires sleep and rest, but His soul desired a rest that only comes in prayer and communion with His Father.
- He had nowhere to lay His head, but He always had a place for prayer, even when on the cross.
- Perhaps Jesus was burdened not only for the shepherd-less multitudes, but also the misunderstanding, fame seeking disciples.
- He may have temporarily denied them His presence, but gave them the greater by His prayers.

VS. 47 Now when evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea; and He was alone on the land.

- The storm was the path that Christ chose for them and so with us. The path Christ chooses for us may also at times be mysterious and painful, and frightening but the lessons we learn will better us in this life and the next.

VS. 48 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.

- 4th watch = 3 – 6:00 in the morning.
- It would seem that they had labored in rowing for around 9 hours.
- Though the disciples could not see Jesus, Jesus could see them.
- **Straining**: properly signifies "to test by rubbing on the touchstone" A touchstone is used to test the purity of true gold. It also is a word that means "the criterion that determines the quality or genuineness of a thing." So, you know that something is right, genuine, or quality by a standard, a touchstone. then, "to question by applying torture;" hence "to torment;" "to be harassed, distressed;" it is said of men struggling in a boat against wind and waves. Experiencing great effort, pain and frustration.
- 1 Peter 4:12, 13; think it not strange concerning
- James 1:2 Count it all joy when
- Jesus never abandons us, though He may be unseen. He may seem to be absent and out of our sight, but we are never out of His sight.
 - PS. 139: 7, 9, 10; Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning, *And* dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, ¹⁰ Even there Your hand shall lead me, *And* Your right hand shall hold me.

VS. 49 And when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed it was a ghost, and cried out;

- **Ghost:** Phantom.
- **Cried out:** signifies "to cry out loudly,"
 - But when they saw Him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and raised a [deep, throaty] shriek of terror.

VS. 50 ⁵⁰ 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."

- **Were Troubled.** To throw into a panic, or to strike with dread.
- **To be of good cheer:** To be brave, take courage, that is to depend on Me.
- Here the disciples are moved beyond amazement being beside themselves and in Matt. he adds to worship Him.
 - **PS. 77:19;** Your way was in the sea, Your path in the great waters, And Your footsteps were not known.
- **"It is I"** This short phrase can be said 2 ways in the Greek N. T.
- 1) eimi or 2) Ego eimi. (aye-go em-ee) "I - AM"
- This last way is an intensive way of saying "I am."
- However it is also a expression that translates the inexpressible name of God, the name that God gave to Moses in Ex. 3:14.
- This is how Jesus uses it in the "I Am's" of John, John uses this phrase regarding the divinity of Christ 24X and Mark uses it here, even as Matthew uses it in the parallels passage in chapter 14.
- In the Hebrew it would be rendered Yahweh and when translated into Greek it is by the phrase, "Ego Eimi." (aye-go em-ee)
- It is I, all of it was the doing of Jesus, He was and is over all, Omnipotent, Omniscient and Omnipresent. It is I, My doing. Be not afraid.

VS. 51 & 52 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.

- They could not figure out the way of Jesus, who did such miraculous things, feeding the thousands and they reveled in the thoughts of Jesus being made king now!
 - **Jn. 6:15;** Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.
- But instead He sends everyone home and the disciples He constrains to sail across the sea while He goes alone to pray.

- Then He now appears doing the absolute miraculous in walking on the waves and calming the sea!
- The disciples did not understand the feeding of the 5000+ because of the hardness of their hearts.
- They could only see what they wanted to see, that is a Messiah who was to come and deliver Israel from all tyranny and specifically from the putrid power of Rome and set himself up as king and them promoted and basking in His glory.

- **Mark 10:35-37**

- He was to be the great emancipator of Israel.
- They had fastened their hearts on a Messiah of their own making and liking. Not the Messiah who is. The suffering Messiah.
- They had not gained any insight into His many statements about His coming death, nor His omnipotence as seen in the feeding of the 5000.
- They would not, could not, did not "connect the dots." As their hearts were fixed on their own perception of who the Messiah would be.
- Naturally they desired to stay in the glory of the hour. The miraculous where they could share in Christ's glory on earth, in time while missing the knowledge of the greater glory that awaits His saints in eternity.
- Jn. 6:21 tells us that when Jesus entered the boat they "immediately arrived at their appointed destination.
- The hours of painstaking oaring which produced almost no advancement at all despite all their sailing expertise was immediately over shadowed by the miraculous presence of Jesus.
- We must get Jesus in the boat, Let Him lead regardless of what our feeble minds think is best. Get Jesus in the boat.
- Know Him, invite Him, find Him in the center of our storm tossed life, let Him into the boat of your soul.

CONCLUSION:

- Why did Jesus send them away so abruptly? (they were prone to pride.)
- Why did Jesus send them into a storm? (to try them that they would know their own limitations and His absolute limitlessness.
- Why did Jesus walk out on the sea to still the storm and save them? (He could have done this from shore), to show Himself as the Eternal. I Am!
- We are currently on the sea of life where we often find ourselves in the storms of this life,
- But rest assured, be of good courage, Jesus not only watches over us and prays, He is with us in the boat, leading, comforting, and encouraging.
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