



WEEK FOUR: Jesus Walks on Water

WARM-UP

- What is your favorite memory involving water? (like swimming in it, traveling over it, playing in it)
- Name something that you're deathly afraid of and why.
- How would you define or describe a miracle and have you ever experienced one?

WORD

⁴⁵Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of Him to Bethsaida, while He dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶After leaving them, He went up on a mountainside to pray. ⁴⁷Later that night, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and He was alone on land. ⁴⁸He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. Shortly before dawn he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, ⁴⁹but when they saw Him walking on the lake, they thought He was a ghost. They cried out, ⁵⁰because they all saw Him and were terrified. Immediately He spoke to them and said, "**Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.**" ⁵¹Then He climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, ⁵²for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened. ⁵³When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. ⁵⁴As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. ⁵⁵They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard He was. ⁵⁶And wherever He went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged Him to let them touch even the edge of His cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

Mark 6: 45-52 (NIV)

WE EXIST TO HELP PEOPLE KNOW GOD, GROW TOGETHER,
DISCOVER PURPOSE, AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



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INTRODUCTION

Before sending His disciples off in a boat in this passage, Jesus displays one of the many miracles Christians remember today: feeding the five thousand. In Mark 6:7-13, Jesus sends out His twelve disciples to share the message of repentance, as well as giving them authority over unclean spirits. Having returned from their assignment, Jesus intends on debriefing the disciples, but instead they are met by a huge crowd. Crowds have been following Jesus' travels because they had seen and heard of His amazing displays that defied logic and reason. Without hesitation, Jesus prioritizes caring for the crowd instead of meeting with the disciples. He begins to teach and as evening approaches, He miraculously feeds all five thousand people with only five loaves of bread and two fish, with plenty left over.

Mark 6:45 then begins the same way as other paragraphs do in the book of Mark, with the word "immediately." Jesus immediately sends His disciples away on a boat, while Jesus Himself retreats to the mountain to pray. The Sea of Galilee is 13 miles wide, and the time to cross in between the shortest distances of one side to the other would take several hours by row boat. When Jesus is rested, He sees the boat, but due to the weather, it is only a short distance away. He begins to walk towards the boat on the water with the intention of walking past them, and meeting them on the shore. However, the disciples see Him, mistake Him for a ghost, and are terrified. Jesus reassures them that He is not a ghost, and gets into the boat with them. At that point the winds die down, and His disciples are left in shock and confusion once more. This is the second time Jesus shows his divinity to his disciples, on a boat, and alone from the crowds (Mark 4:35-41). Yet, His disciples still do not understand, and perhaps do not truly believe everything they are hearing or seeing from Jesus, just as they had not understood before.

Mark

THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS



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DISCUSSION

1. This is the second time Jesus tried to get His disciples into a boat, to get away from the crowds (Mark 6:30-32). What are some reasons why Jesus would want to put His disciples on a boat and send them away, again?
2. Not only does Jesus choose to walk across the sea, but he intentionally passes by the boat of His disciples. Why does He walk by the boat rather than just keeping a far enough distance so the disciples don't see Him?
3. Mark 6:49-52 tells us that the disciples went from 'terrified' to 'completely amazed' at Jesus walking on water because they 'had not understood about the loaves'. What do you think it was about the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 that they failed to understand? How do you think they rationalized that miracle?
4. What do you think it means when it says that 'their hearts were hardened'? How did this contribute to their fear and amazement?

APPLICATION

1. The hardness of the disciples hearts caused them to fear and miss seeing Jesus for who he truly was. Where do you need to soften your heart? ? What can you do to soften your heart?



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APPLICATION CONTINUED

2. Jesus says to his disciples in verse 50, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." Why is it so hard for us to not be afraid of what we're struggling with even if we've been praying and others have been encouraging us? Is there somewhere in your life where you need to heart those words and take them to heart?
3. The disciples were exhausted after several days of non-stop ministry to the multitudes. Vince Lombardi once said, "Fatigue makes cowards of us all." Are there any areas of life where weariness or tiredness may be affecting your faith?

PRAYER

- Pray that God might reveal to you his true identity as your Father.
- Pray that we might trust God's grace and power to help us overcome our impossible situations.
- Pray that God might refresh you in areas of your weakness and exhaustion.
- Pray that God will reveal to you where your heart needs to be softened, and that you would allow him to begin to do it.

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