

Walking on Water
Mark 6:45-52

I. Intro

- A. Connection Groups: AKA Supper Clubs...
- B. NPU EQUIP: Classes begin September 9, with a special intro and “meet the teacher” on September 2.
- C. After feeding 5000, the story takes us to another event of epic significance
- D. This story is detailed in Matthew, John, and Mark.
- E. Some differences:
 - 1. Matthew records Peter and Jesus in conversation and Peter getting out of the boat
 - 2. John records they were headed towards Capernaum: which is in the same area as Bethsaida on the north central shore of the Sea of Galilee.
- F. We need to remember this account, along with all the other miraculous accounts, was building an understanding of who Jesus is, so the disciples would be prepared for what was to come.
- G. But...the disciples did not yet understand. Just from Chapter 6 we see:
 - 1. A little boys lunch does not feed 5000 (or so) people...until it does
 - 2. A man does not walk on water...until He does
 - 3. So, I get it, they were struggling to keep up.

II. Text

- A. Verse 45
 - 1. Bethsaida and Capernaum are recorded as the target location for the disciples:
 - a) Two cities on either side of the Jordan river inlet on the north shore of the sea of Galilee
 - b) Could have been a minor adjustment due to the wind direction, but its the same general area and not a cause for alarm.
- B. Verses 46-47
 - 1. Jesus was taking a moment to be alone and recover
 - 2. But He saw them in their struggle and came alongside
- C. Verse 48:
 - 1. They were working hard
 - 2. And Jesus was going to pass them by
- D. Verses 49-50
 - 1. Then they cry out and He comes to them immediately
 - 2. They were afraid and thought He was a ghost
 - 3. And He calmed them, just as He has calmed the storm not long ago.
- E. Verse 51:
 - 1. The storm calms
 - 2. John records that the boat was then immediately taken to shore
- F. Verse 52
 - 1. And, they did not understand
 - 2. For their hearts were hardened

III. Point

- A. The Struggle is real
 - 1. Jesus saw them toiling and struggling
 - 2. When they cried out, He immediately went to them.
 - 3. They didn't specifically cry out to Him, but He heard their cry
 - 4. He was going to go past them, but intervened instead.
 - 5. Such a strange situation, and a supernatural savior.
 - a) He sent them to the other side, through the night
 - b) He could see their struggle, yet they were still in building mode, so preparing for launch...he let them struggle

- c) He was going to beat them to the other side, but it doesn't seem that Jesus walking on water was the main point here.
 - d) Jesus is teaching them about His supernatural authority, and they have much to learn yet.
- 6. As you struggle, know that Jesus sees you:
 - a) I challenge you to cry out to Him
 - b) And when you do, listen to what He says.
- B. His Authority is Real
 - 1. Ego Eimi: I AM
 - 2. He said: don't be afraid...I AM
 - 3. We have heard that before:
 - a) [Exo 3:13-14 ESV] 13 Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" 14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"
 - b) [Jhn 8:53-59 ESV] 53 Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" 54 Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.' 55 But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." 57 So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" 58 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." 59 So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.
 - 4. When He sees them in panic mode during the struggle: crisis level maximum:
 - a) Struggling against the wind
 - b) Struggling with their minds: the legends of mariners are vast and detailed
 - c) Struggle with what was reality
 - 5. And He responds: TAKE HEART, I AM.
 - a) Powerful words
 - b) And they were utterly astounded
 - 6. Let Christ speak His I AM truth into your crisis, invite Him in the boat:
 - a) If you are struggling with habitual sin: TAKE HEART, I AM.
 - b) If you are lacking in faith: TAKE HEART, I AM.
 - c) If you are worried about your kids: TAKE HEART, I AM.
 - d) If you think you are beyond God's reach of redemption: TAKE HEART, I AM.
 - 7. Spoken with authority that reaches back to the beginning of time and penetrates hearts and minds today.
- C. Hard hearts are real
 - 1. This may be the most relatable thing we have seen yet, the disciples were still hard hearted.
 - 2. They had seen the miracles, they had picked up the 12 baskets of scraps, they just saw Jesus walking on water...but they were still hard hearted.
 - 3. You and I have seen through the course of our lives that:
 - a) Christ brings peace in the midst of chaos
 - b) Christ turns a mess into a message.
 - c) Christ turns a test into a testimony.
 - d) Christ turns a trial into a triumph.
 - e) Christ turns a victim into a victor.
 - f) Just in time, right on time, never missing a time, Jesus is always faithful.
 - 4. Is your heart hard?
 - a) If so, why? Recognize the truth and walk in it.

- b) If not, why? Recognize others are struggling, and walk with them.
- c) The church is a special place:
 - (1) God brings us together by His will, our culture has turned church into a consumer mentality. If I don't like something, I'll go find better down the road.
 - (2) The church is made up of all the gifts needed to accomplish His mission, but not everyone is serving in that mission.
 - (3) The church is designed to be a place that struggle is allowed and help is available.
 - (4) Build one another up, Help each other grow!

IV. Close

[Mar 6:45-52 ESV] 45 Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. 46 And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray. 47 And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. 48 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, 49 but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, 50 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." 51 And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, 52 for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.