

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for January 29, 2017

The Man Who Walked on Water
Mark 6:45-56

I. The miracle to encourage the disciples (6:45-52)

A. The alienation from the crowd (6:45-47)

Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd.

- After the feeding of the 5,000, the crowd was trying to make Jesus King
 - John 6:14-15** “When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, ‘This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!’ 15 Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.”
- Jesus wanted to send the disciples away so they would not participate in the crowd’s attempt to make Jesus King
- Jesus chose to dismiss the crowd Himself

to the other side, to Bethsaida,

- This was a journey from the NE shore to the NW shore of Galilee
- According to Luke 9:10, the feeding of the 5,000 took place at Bethsaida-Julias, which was located on the Northeastern shore of Galilee
- The Bethsaida in Mark 6:45 is a different Bethsaida located on the Northwestern shore of Galilee

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

- This is another reminder of Jesus’ humanity
- Think of the difficulty He had just faced
 - He was offered another chance to shortcut the suffering to be King!
 - This was similar to Satanic temptation in the wilderness
- This was not just another picture of Christ’s obedience; but, a model for fighting temptation presented for the church
 - Mark 1:35** “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.”
 - Luke 5:16** “But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.”

47 And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land.

- Mark draws attention to the separation between Jesus and the disciples
- This sets up for what Jesus does next in the story

B. The appearance of Jesus (6:48-50)

48 And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them.

- Matthew 14:24 “but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them.”

And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them,

- Fourth watch of the night = Between 3:00-6:00 AM
- This is based upon standard Roman divisions of the day

walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them,

- There is significance in Jesus walking on water:
 - Job 9:8** “who alone stretched out the heavens and trampled the waves of the sea;”
 - Isaiah 43:2** “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;”
 - Isaiah 43:16** “Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters,”
- Only God can control and walk on water
- What does it mean that “He meant to pass by them”?
- We must go back to the Old Testament to see the significance of this phrase!

1) Moses

- Israel had made idolatrous golden calf in Exodus 32
- God had threatened to destroy all Israel and start over with Moses
- Moses found himself in a depressing situation due to the sin of God’s people and confusion of God’s plan
- Exodus 33:18-19** “Moses said, ‘Please show me your glory.’ 19 And he said, ‘I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The LORD.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.’”
- Exodus 33:22** “and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by.”

- God encouraged Moses by causing His glory to pass by him
- 2) Elijah
 - Elijah and Yahweh had just defeated prophets of Baal and King Ahab on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18)
 - Jezebel threatened to kill Elijah driving him to withdraw into the wilderness
 - Like Moses, Elijah found himself in a depressing situation due to the sin of God's people and confusion of God's plan
 - 1 Kings 19:9-11** "There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said to him, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' 10 He said, 'I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.' 11 And he said, 'Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD.' And behold, the LORD passed by"
 - God passed by Elijah to encourage him in His plan
 - As with Moses and Elijah, the disciples were depressed over the nation's response to Jesus and the confusion in God's plan through Jesus
 - As with Moses and Elijah, Jesus passed by the disciples on the Sea of Galilee to encourage them about God's plan since Jesus Himself was God

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."

- Disciples response of terror matches terror experienced by others who interacted with God's glory (Moses and Elijah)
- Interesting they thought Jesus to be a ghost, which was probably another reference to the glory of God in Christ
- Jesus' words are, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."
 - Take heart = "Be courageous"
 - It is I = "I AM" (Old Testament Title for Yahweh)
 - Exodus 3:14** "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.' "

C. The astonishment of the disciples (6:51-52)

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.

- The wind ceasing was not the only miracle
 - John 6:21 “Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.”
- “And they were utterly astounded” literally translates “Exceedingly of remarkable character in themselves, they were astounded”
 - Further shows their shock at what they had just seen
- “for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened”
 - Disciples had missed the details that Mark described in the feeding of the 5,000
 - Jesus was like Moses feeding people in wilderness
 - Jesus was like Elisha multiplying food for his men
 - Jesus was God’s shepherd to feed God’s Word to God’s people/flock (Ezekiel 34)
- The disciples’ shock and amazement makes sense since they did not understand the significance of the feeding of the 5,000
 - The disciples could answer their own question from Mark 4:41 “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”
 - Matthew 14:33 “And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God.’”
 - John 6:66-69 “After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. 67 So Jesus said to the twelve, ‘Do you want to go away as well?’ 68 Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, 69 and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.’”

II. The miracles to encourage the diseased (6:53-56)

A. The diseased hurry to Jesus (6:53-55)

53 When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored to the shore. 54 And when they got out of the boat, the people immediately recognized him 55 and ran about the whole region and began to bring the sick people on their beds to wherever they heard he was.

- Gennesaret = Plain on Northwestern shore of Galilee
- “People immediately recognized him”
 - As opposed to disciples who had hard hearts
- People’s response to bring the sick proved their recognition of Jesus’ ability and authority

B. The diseased healed by Jesus (6:56)

56 And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and implored him that they might touch even the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

-These are mass healings that are unprecedented in history and the life of Christ

-Previously, there have been multiple healings (Capernaum)

-Previously, people have touched Him to be healed as well

-Mark 5:27 “She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment.”

-Now, “that they might touch even the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.”

-This was a whole new level of mass healings from Jesus

-This fits Mark’s saga of events:

-Jesus reveals His authority in miraculous feeding of 5,000

-People try to make Him King, but He declines

-Jesus reveals His Deity to the disciples

-Disciples grow in understanding, since they were slow

-After two stories indicating Christ’s right as King and God, Jesus chooses to serve the masses and heal the sick

-Mark’s emphasis: Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom (Mark 10:45)