**Jesus feeds the 5000 and Walks on Water**

**R. Giglio 6/14/20**

Mark 6:30-52

**30**The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. **31**Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

**32**So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. **33**But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them.

*Jesus was trying to find a quiet place for them to “rest”.*

*He recognizes their need to rest and restore after a grueling week of two-by-two ministry. He is SO popular by now that He and His apostles couldn’t even find a place and time to eat. They decided to leave by boat to a secluded quiet place, but people saw them and ran along the shore following the boat, and some ran ahead to meet them.*

**34**When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

*(so much for the rest and relaxation retreat)*

**35**By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. “This is a remote place,” they said, “and it’s already very late. **36**Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.”

**37**But he answered, “You give them something to eat.”

They said to him, “That would take more than half a year’s wages[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+6%3A35-44&version=NIV#fen-NIV-24445a)]! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?”

**38**“How many loaves do you have?” he asked. “Go and see.”

When they found out, they said, “Five—and two fish.”

**39**Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. **40**So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. **41**Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. **42**They all ate and were satisfied, **43**and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. **44**The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

Jesus Walks on Water

**45**Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. **46**After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray.

**47**Later that night, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. **48**He 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, **49**but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, **50**because they all saw him and were terrified.

Immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” **51**Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed,

**52**for they had not *understood about the loaves*; their hearts were hardened.

*What did they not understand about the loaves?*

Jesus was teaching them to “Trust in Him”:

The first lesson – “Where to find bread”

V. 35-36 “This is a remote place,” they said, “and it’s already very late. **36**Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.”

They saw the need, but their solution was to *look elsewhere* for provision instead of to Jesus.

*We* do this in many ways.

We look to people, things and sources other than God when problems and crisis come our way.

We try to find help, provision, or resources in places other than going directly to Jesus.

On some occasions when we are experiencing problems or crisis, we tend to look for answers in popular writings, guidance, counsel and *books*.

This is dangerous.

Because, unless the source is rooted deeply in the Word of God and is rightly divided, it is what the Bible calls “*the wisdom of this world”.* When we follow worldly wisdom, the problems and crisis won’t go away, they will just get worse.

It’s so important to look to God and His Word for wisdom.

**John 16:13** “The Holy Spirit will guide you into truth.”

The Holy Spirit within you, and the Bible in front of you is sufficient. No need to look elsewhere.

Another reason that our first response is to look elsewhere, is:

Self-Sufficiency - This is the reason so many of us become obsessed with money or become workaholics so that we won’t ever have to worry about provision. This is the source of many of the excessive attitudes about finances, education, investment, security, etc. God wants us to rely solely on Him, Jesus teaches this lesson to them with the fish and bread.

One of the most obvious lessons we learn here, is that Jesus is concerned with not only our spiritual needs (Teaching us the Word of God), But our Physical needs as well (Literal Daily Bread).

These crowds went out into the middle of nowhere with no provisions because they wanted to hear Jesus speak the word of God. Jesus rewarded their faith by providing a miraculous meal so they could eat in abundance.

This underscores the principle that he taught them in the Sermon on the Mount;

*(we touched on this last week)*

Matt 6:31-33“So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ 32These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.33Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

There was a deeper lesson Jesus was teaching them however. Jesus was continuously training them and preparing them for *their roles* in establishing His Kingdom. Jesus used THEM to perform the miracle of the Fish and bread. Yes, Jesus blessed the food, but they were the ones pulling copious amounts of fish and bread from the baskets. THEY were the ones feeding the multitudes. This was a physical foreshadow of what they would eventually do spiritually by feeding thousands of people with the bread of Life, even after Jesus was gone. They were being prepared for a greater work. *(perhaps a continuation of the week of training they just completed)*

In both of these miracles, Jesus proves that he has control over even the elements of nature and science. They did not control Him. These were the same Apostles who witnessed Him calming the storm back in Mark 4 after he was asleep on the boat. They should have known that they were under Jesus’ care. They should have known that Jesus plan for them was not going to end with their sudden, untimely death at sea due to some storm.

His plans for them were certain and secure, despite storms they faced and challenges they endured.

This is true for you and I. We can learn from this…

*Are you facing storms and challenges in your life? We all are.*

*“Don’t fear, Jesus is near.”*

His plans for YOU are certain and secure, despite storms you face and challenges *you* endure. Do not allow doubt and unbelief to harden your heart toward the plans that He has for you.

Matthew’s Account of the “walk on the water” is different than Mark’s *(Peter’s).* It *included Peter* and an *important lesson of faith.* We’re not sure why Mark left this out of his gospel, but let’s read it in Matthew.

Matt 14:24-33

24Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. 25About three o’clock in the morningJesus came toward them, walking on the water. 26When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, “It’s a ghost!”

27But Jesus spoke to them at once. “Don’t be afraid,” he said. “Take courage. I am here!”

28Then Peter called to him, “Lord, if it’s really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water.”

29“*Yes, come,”* Jesus said.

So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. 30But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. “Save me, Lord!” he shouted.

31Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. “You have so little faith,” Jesus said. “Why did you doubt me?”

32When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. 33Then the disciples worshiped him. “You really are the Son of God!” they exclaimed.

*[,,,I wonder why Peter left this part of the story out of his account in the gospel of Mark. Maybe because he didn’t want to repeat the part where Jesus said to him “You have so little Faith”.*

*Maybe Mark originally had it in there but Peter edited it out…”let’s just leave that part out : ) ]*

The big lesson here is FAITH.

Jesus may have said to Peter “*You have so little faith*” as he was sinking. But let’s face it Peter had *a lot more faith* than I would have had. He also had a lot more faith than any of the other Apostles that were in the boat trembling in fear and having “hardness of hearts”. He actually *walked on water* for a few steps. Something no one besides Jesus has ever done.

*FAITH*

*WHAT IS IT?*

FAITH = TRUST

(Greek: Pistis)

*Same word*

*FAITH sounds more religious; TRUST sounds more relational.*

*Where does it come from?*

***Romans 10:17***So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

It is a *response* to hearing the Word of God.

*Peter was watching Jesus walking on the waves….*

*…What was he thinking?*

*…He must have been silently saying to himself…I want to do that…*

He wanted to walk on water, just like Jesus. He believed it must be possible. He had a vision to do something spectacular, something that required trust beyond the borders of anything he had ever experienced.

He may have sang something like:

*“…Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders*

*Let me walk upon the waters*

*Wherever You would call me…”*

He had a vision in his heart to walk on water, to do this miraculous thing that Jesus was doing.

He took the initiative and asked the Lord to call him out.

He knew that he could not do it unless the Lord called Him.

(Remember: “Faith comes by hearing a word from God”)

v.28“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

v.29 “Come,” he said.

Peter asked and received the word of faith.

He DID NOT step out of the boat until he heard Jesus say “COME”.

If Jesus had not said COME, Peter would have sank immediately if he tried.

***Hebrews 11:1***Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, and evidence of things not seen. It is NOT just “Things desire for things hoped for”

We can’t just conjure up a bunch of hope, and then call it faith. That is just selfish ambition.

* When we hear a word, or words from God,
  + and then we believe it,
  + and act upon it,
    - that’s faith.
* When we *do the opposite*, Its Sin!

**Romans 14:23** “…whatever *is* not from faith is sin.”

Peter walked on water. *He really did.* He just could not keep up the same amount of faith that he started with because he took His *eyes off Jesus* and became distracted and fearful of his surroundings.

Let’s not do that. Let’s keep our **eyes on Jesus**.

When He gives us vision for something spectacular that he wants to do in us or though us, let’s walk it out. Let’s *walk out* the special plan and vision that he put in our hearts, regardless of what storms we face and regardless of what adversity comes against us.

Matt 19:26 **“**Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, **but with God all things are possible.”**

Our God is a God of Miracles.

Jesus shows us that time and time again.

* Trust Him to complete the work that he started in you,
* And fulfill the vision that He has given to you.
* Despite the storms,
* Despite the opposition
* Despite the doubt that tries to steal your faith.
* Don’t look for answers, or provision from any other source.
* Don’t look back and don’t look down.

**Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!**