



‘Now!’ Sermon Series

Sermon #25

‘There’s no Water that He Won’t Walk on, for You!’

Mark 6:45-56

Sunday, October 20th, 2024

Last week in ‘NOW’ sermon series:

- Last week we studied a passage of scripture that was familiar to most everyone, the feeding of the five thousand.
 - *This morning we get to look at another very familiar passage of scripture. Where Jesus walked on water...*
- Before we look at that text, let me remind you of what we studied last Sunday.
 - We looked at Mark 6:35-44 with a sermon entitled ***‘Compelled to be Compassionate!’*** from ***Mark 6:35-44.***

- I asked the question: ***How does Jesus show us that we should be compelled to be compassionate?***
- **Truth #1: *The Temptation Pops Up. (V. 35-36)***
- **Truth #2: *The Turning Point. (V. 37-40)***
- **Truth #3: *The Task Performed. (V. 41-44)***
- Based on last week’s message, how are you living a compassionate life? Are you showing compassion to others? To go a step further, are you compelled to be compassionate everyday? Whether you feel like it or not?

‘There’s no Water that He Won’t Walk on, for You!’

Mark 6:45-56

Sermon in a Sentence:

We can see that Jesus will walk on water for you by Prioritizing Personal Prayer, Purposefully seeking out others’ pain, placing our fears in His hands, protecting ourselves from potential temptation, and seeing that potential needs should be needs that are met.

Intro:

- ***When Jesus created the meal to feed the 5,000 He became extremely popular.***
 - ***One way that we know the feeding of the 5,000 had a big impact on the ancient world is because all 4 of the Gospel writers included that in their narratives.***

- *At this point in Mark's Gospel, Jesus had ministered in the Galilean region for over a year.*
 - During this time we know that he preached and performed many miracles.
 - **(Remember that not all that Jesus did is recorded in scripture)**
 - John said this in his Gospel:
 - 'Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.' John 21:25
- Things are going well in Jesus' ministry. In addition to this, the disciples are being sent out and they are doing ministry.
 - **Word about Jesus is spreading, and in John's account of the feeding of the 5,000, we see that these crowds wanted to make Jesus their King.**
 - 'When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" 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.' John 6:14-15
 - **The time had not yet come for Jesus to take His throne, and when He would, it would not be in the way that the people wanted or expected.**

- Before He could get to the throne in Heaven, there was a cross on the way, that He would endure the pain and suffering so that we might have salvation.
 - **In our text this morning, we see that there's nothing that can be put in between you and Jesus, that Jesus Himself is not willing to cross to get to you.**
- Not sure what you're going through this morning, what kinds of storms you are facing, but the disciples in this text were in a storm.
 - **This storm came up quick, and out of nowhere, as they often do in our lives...**
- **To me, the overarching theme in this text is that Jesus walks on water to get to the disciples, just as He gets to us no matter what...**
 - This morning I want us to focus on the application of what Jesus shows us we should be doing while we ourselves may be in a storm, or in helping others that we know who may be in a storm...
 - ***Read Mark 6:45-56***

Question to Ask:

What do we see Jesus do in this text that shows us nothing can stop Jesus from caring and loving us? Not even the Sea of Galilee.

Point 1: Prioritize Personal Prayer. (V. 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. 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.’

- ***Jesus has just fed the 5,000 and to keep the crowds from continuing to follow Him and his disciples, he puts them into a boat, to go to the other side of the Sea.***
 - He is wanting to keep the disciples safe from the large crowd seeking to physically overtake them.
 - There are 2 things to point out here concerning Jesus Prioritizing Personal Prayer...
- ***Jesus has a Plan. (V. 45)***
 - From the beginning, this was Jesus plan that they would go onto the boat, face the storm, so that they would look to Him and see Him for who He was in His Glory.
 - ***As hard of a theological concept as it is to understand, we must trust that because God is omniscient (all knowing), that He knows when we are getting ready to go into a storm.***
 - The Disciples, and us here today, may ask ‘If God knows what I’m going to go through before I go into the storm, why doesn’t He stop it?’
 - ***Because God sends storms in our lives to teach us more about Himself and to cause us to lean***

and depend on Him more than we currently are.

- ***This life is all about growing in our love and knowledge of God and in our relationship with Him.***
- As Daniel Akin said ‘Jesus may indeed send us into trouble and difficulty but with a redemptive purpose.’
 - God is not sending you into trouble to punish you or to torment you, He’s allowing you to go through it so that you’ll get closer to Him.
- ***Storms are to make us draw closer to God.***
 - ***On the flip side, some of us keep going through the same storms over and over because we aren’t grasping the lessons that God is wanting to teach us.***
- ***Jesus has a Prayer Time. (V. 46-47)***
 - ‘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.’
 - ***You cannot have an effective ministry of showing Jesus to people as the way maker and water crosser if you are not prioritizing personal prayer.***
 - If the Son of God consistently prayed to His Heavenly Father throughout His earthly ministry than don’t you think

that's a good indicator that we should be praying as well?

- Mark only records three times in his Gospel where Jesus prayed:
 - #1: Beginning of His ministry in Mark 1:35.
 - #2: Here, right after He fed the Five Thousand in Mark 6:46.
 - #3: In the Garden of Gethsemane, right before He took on the Cross for our sins in Mark 14:32-42.
- What does this show you and I based on Mark's sharing of Jesus' prayer time?
 - ***Whenever Jesus was facing a critical moment, He got away and in a private place and He prayed.***
- ***Jesus was a very intense prayer warrior, as we should be. The Bible tells us in the Garden of Gethsemane that He prayed so hard that his sweat turned to blood.***
 - John Piper says this about prayer ***'Until you believe that life is war, you cannot know what prayer is for.'***
- Prayer is not simply asking God to heal our boo boos and pains, pray is actively seeking the God of Heaven to intervene in our circumstances and situations here on earth.
 - ***If you are truly living the Christian life here on earth, than it is and will be a***

true battle that can only be fought with intense and genuine prayer.

Point 2: *Purposefully Seek Out Others' Pain. (V. 48-49)*

- 'And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night^[a] 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,'
- ***If you really want to do ministry, go to where the people are. Where there are people, there are problems. Where there are problems, there's an opportunity to point others to the Problem Solver, Christ Jesus.***
 - The disciples were heading to the other side of the sea just as they had been directed to do by Jesus in verse 46.
 - As they get out into the fourth watch of the night (which would have been between 3-6 AM), Jesus appeared to them in their distress.
 - ***I think it's important to note that Jews viewed the night in a term of three watches, while the Romans had 4 watches. It's interesting that Mark uses the Roman time table.***
 - Jesus is going to do something for the disciples here that each one of us should be doing for our fellow man.

- Not walking on water, but purposefully seeking out others' pain and helping them.
- **Jesus is Aware of their Predicament. (V. 48a)**
 - ‘And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them.’
 - **A few hours earlier, Jesus showed compassion on a crowd of 10,000-20,000 hungry people.**
 - Now he shows compassion to his own disciples.
 - **Now at this time of night, the disciples would have made pretty good distance across the sea of Galilee. (8.1 Miles Wide) They would have at least made 3 miles distance from the shore in my opinion, we can't know this for sure.**
 - **The text says that Jesus saw the disciples. Did He see them with His physical eyes or is this a manifestation of his deity as the Son of God?**
 - **We can't know for sure, but the one thing that we can know, is that all throughout this situation with the disciples in the boat, He (Jesus) is in complete and total control.**
 - I tend to believe that Jesus couldn't see with his physical eyes that far, but because He was God in human flesh, that He knew where His disciples were on the lake, and He goes to that exact location.

- As JM said ***'The omniscience of God is unlimited in its scope and universal in its sight.'***
 - In Proverbs 15:3 we find ‘The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.’
 - **No matter what your predicament or situation, when you think no one sees and that no one cares, trust me, Jesus does.**
 - **‘The wind was against them’**
 - Not sure what the winds are that may be against you today, but I wanted to encourage that there is no wind, no storm, or no problem, that Jesus can't get to, and that Jesus can't fix.
- **Jesus Approaches their Problem. (V. 48b-49)**
 - ‘And about the fourth watch of the night^[a] 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,’
 - The phrase ***'He meant to pass by them'*** has caused much conversation and confusion in the scholarship world. There are many interpretations of this, but I'll just name a few.

- #1: Jesus intends to overtake the disciples and playfully surprise them on the other side.
- #2: Jesus wants to pass by but does not do so when He sees the disciples's distress.
- #3: The phrase in the Greek means He intended to just simply go beside them.
- #4: The disciples mistaken Him for thinking He intended on passing by them.
 - ***Personally, I don't think any of these correctly summarize what is going on here.***
- ***I think this phrase is rooted in the Old Testament in a theological phrase called a Theophany.***
 - By definition of theophany is the appearance and manifestation of God Himself in the Old Testament.
- ***When we look at Exodus 33:20-23, I think we can get a better understanding of the usage of this phrase in Mark 6:48.***
 - 'But,' he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." 21 And the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, 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. 23 Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

- ***1st Kings 19:11 is also important to look at:***
 - 'And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake.'
 - ***In the case of Moses at Sinai and Elijah at Horeb, we see the God passing by them.***
- ***So what does that mean within the context of this text in Mark 6:48?***
 - ***That Jesus wanted to pass by His Disciples so that might see His Glory and believe in Him!***
- This does not happen as the Disciples mistake Him for a ghost.
 - This is where they need to put their obvious fears in Omega's hands...

Point 3: *Place your Fears in His Hands. (V. 50-51)*

- '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,'

- **Church, these verses should be so comforting to you right now.**

- The disciples are in a big storm, and it wasn't the first time.
- They are without Jesus, as far as they know, He's still on the shoreline in prayer.

- **As your Pastor, I am very much aware of some (not all), of the storms that some of you are going through right now.**

- And for those of you who have just gotten out of a storm, are in a storm, or are heading into one (we are all in one of those three categories) I want you to know that you can place your fears in the arms of your Savior.

- **No matter what you're going through, you don't have to carry the fears that are holding onto so tightly right now. You can give them to Him.**

- **Remember though, God is not going to pry them out of your hands, you've got to give your fears to Him in total and complete faith and surrender.**

- There are 3 things to point out concerning placing your fears in His Hands.

- **Danger. (V. 50a)**

- ***Word Study***

- The word 'terrified' describes the reaction that the disciples had when they see Jesus walking on the water.

- (The last time they were in a storm, Jesus slept during it in Mark 4:35-41)

- That word terrified comes from the greek word **'Tarasso'** ἐταράχθησαν which means agitated and in trouble in one's mind to the point of severe grief and anxiety.

- Occurs 17 times in the NT.

- Is that you this morning?

- **Are you in danger to the point where your mind is driven to extreme anxiety?**

- You're focusing way more on the storm outside of the boat inside of looking who's in your boat, and who's been with you every step of the way. Jesus Christ!

- You and I often need to be reminded when we are in danger of the deity of our God!

- **Deity. (V. 50b)**

- 'But immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

- **Some of the sweetest words that we can find in the scriptures are found right here.**

- Take heart, It is I.

- But who is I?

- **Alpha and Omega God. The Great I am!**

- The english translation that we have ‘It is I’ really doesn’t show the significance of what Jesus said in the Greek.
 - ***Word Study***
 - Jesus said the phrase **‘Ego Eimi’** ἐγώ εἰμι which would have had huge theological implications to the Disciples and anyone who was a Jew.
 - **‘Ego Eimi’ was a self-designation of God Himself.**
 - ‘God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.”^[a] And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” Exodus 3:14
 - Within the Context of Exodus 3, we know God said that to Moses when He had given Moses an assignment to lead Israel out of the great oppression they had experienced at the hand of the Egyptians.
 - **Here, the second and greater Moses is going to lead them through the oppression of the Storm.**
 - The use of **‘Ego Eimi’** is extremely important because Christ Himself is saying that He is in fact God. He is revealing His deity to His disciples.
- **You and I must be reminded of this same truth: That whatever trial or hardship you are going through right now, the Great I AM is with you, will come to you, and wants to help you.**
- We cannot effectively minister to others if we are not truly placing our fears in His Hands.
- **Dumbfounded. (V. 51)**
 - ‘And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded,’
 - **Mark tells us that the disciples were ‘astounded’ that yet again, Jesus had made the winds and storms cease, just like He had done before.**
 - ***Word Study***
 - ‘Astounded’ is translated from the greek verb **‘Existemi’** ἐξίσταντο which literally means to be beside oneself in astonishment. (Occurs 17 times in NT)
 - The fact they are in such amazement and astonishment, shows how quick you and I are to forget what God has done in the past, when future problems present themselves.
 - **Matthew’s Account of this adds to the details of this story, that the disciples were not only astounded as Mark added, but they worshiped the Lord.**

- ‘And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.” Matthew 14:33
- *In this case it's taken two miracles within hours of each other for Jesus to be able to get across to His disciples that He is truly God in human flesh.*
 - The human mind and flesh is certainly stubborn.
- How long will it take for you and I to truly know and cling to the truth that *‘There's no Water He won't Walk on, for you!’*

Point 4: *Protect Yourself from Potential Temptation. (V. 52)*

- ‘for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.’
- *The disciples were asounded that Jesus calmed the Sea AGAIN because they obviously didn't learn anything from the feeding of the 5,000.*
- As long as we live and walk this Christian life, we will be tempted by satan to doubt what God is doing in our lives or the lives of others. *It is a temptation that Satan will come to you with all throughout your life. To doubt the power of God.*
 - *If you are a Christian satan cannot possess you but don't forget, he can oppress you.*
 - *One of satan's biggest goals is to distract and derail you from serving the Lord wholeheartedly.*

- Often, he will try to do this in your mind, which is why the Apostle Paul said to take every thought captive to Christ in his second letter to the Church at Corinth.
- *In verse 52, we find one of the harshest statements in the Bible that is directed towards the disciples.*
 - In all reality, if we look and study verse 52, we might find more of ourselves in the verse than we do the disciples.
- There's 1 important thing to point out concerning what Mark says here about the disciples.
- ***The Disciples are Exposed. (V. 52)***
 - ‘for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.’
 - While this verse may hard to understand, at it's root we are all guilty or have been at some time.
 - *Mark made this statement to show if the disciples had seen in the miracle of the loaves and fish that it was not a mere miracle of food appearing, but an indication of identity, then they would have recognized Him when He came on the water.*
 - *The main thing is that the feeding of the 5,000 did not make enough of an impact on them for*

them to remember that what God did before, He can do again!

- Not to mention just months earlier Jesus had calmed the storm in Mark 4:35-41.
- ***You and I are so much like the disciples here!***
 - We often say things like ‘God, I know you can do this and I know you’ve done amazing things for me in the past, but this situation is different and my situation is just beyond impossible.’
- ***God will often deliver us through something and we as people will get through it and then turn around at the next storm and scream ‘God what am I going to do!’***
 - Now they see the deity of Jesus and that He is who He says He is.
- So we see we need to prioritize personal prayer, Purposefully seek others’ pain, place your fear in God’s hands, and Protect yourself from temptation...

Point 5: *Potential Needs are Needs Met. (V. 53-56)*

- ‘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. **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.’

- ***The disciples finally get on dry ground after the storm, and I feel like they may have even kissed the ground, for the second time in Mark’s Gospel, Jesus protected them during the storm.***
 - For the third time in Mark’s Gospel, he includes a summary statement, where he reminds the readers what the effect of Jesus ministry was in the surrounding areas.
 - ***Mark gave summary reports in Mark 1:35-39 and in Mark 3:7-12.***
 - As I mentioned in the intro, these kind of summary statements that the Gospel writers give periodically is proof that Jesus did more than what is recorded.
 - ***It is tempting for scholars and Bible students to simply brush over these verses. There’s not much attention given to them in most commentaries that you read.***
 - There’s no words of Jesus recorded in these verses. But it does not take away the fact that in these verses Jesus continued to see potential needs, and meet those needs.
 - I believe there are **2** things we need to look at concerning Jesus meeting the needs of others...
- ***People want to be Healed. (V. 53-55)***

- ‘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.’
- The area of Gennesaret (also known as Gennesar), was/is a fertile plain about one mile wide and three miles long on the Northwest corner of the Sea of Galilee.
 - *Some scholars say there was a town that had the same name as the region, but we don’t know for sure.*
- *Earlier in our text in verse 45, we are told the boat was headed for Bethsaida, but it landed in Gennesaret.*
 - There is no explanation in scripture for this, but I tend to agree with what JM said *‘The Lord supernatural and instantaneously placed their boat at Gennesaret. They had undoubtedly drifted off course due to the strong winds, which explains why their boat was no longer headed toward their original destination. Storm or not storm, they landed exactly where Jesus wanted them to be.’*
- **Verse 54 explains why they landed where they did: *God had people who were hurting ready for a touch from Jesus.***
 - They see Him and they recognize Him because word had spread.
 - *When people see you, do they see someone they can go to with their problems because they know that the Holy Spirit of God resides in you?*
- In verse 55 we see that these same people are bringing the sick people on pallets, straight to Jesus. Why?
 - *Because they know what He can do. They might not have the right reasons in their heart, and they may not follow Jesus, just get what they want, but they know.*
- *Is your life a living testimony of the miracles that God can do?*
 - Do you live your life in such a way to where people can see the Work of God in and through you and they want to have a part of that?
- **Jesus Keeps meeting the Demands of Needs. (V. 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.’

- There is no where in scripture where a need was given to Jesus and He did not meet it.

- **Everytime there is a need, Jesus meets it.**

- **Now, you and I need to be careful.**

- We can't expect people to be Jesus. People are not perfect, because we are not Christ.
- Now, we should seek and strive to meet needs like Jesus, and pull our strength from Him when dealing with those needs... But we must not put the standard of Jesus' perfection to imperfect servants, that we are.

- **We must stop putting demands on other people that we ourselves are not willing to meet for other people.**

- ***Word Study***

- The word 'well' is the very last word in verse 56 and is translated to 'healed' in other translations.
- It comes from the Greek Word **'Sozo'** **ἐσώζοντο** **which literally means saved in the greek.**
 - It occurs 106 times in the NT.
- **With Mark using this word, it gives the reader the idea that Mark saw the**

physical healing as a pathway for someone to see their need to be saved from their sins, spiritually.

- You and I meet physical needs not to say that we did something for God or to make ourselves look good, but simply because when we meet needs, it gives us the opportunity to meet the spiritual need that each person has.

Conclusion:

- May I remind you this morning, that there's no water that Jesus won't walk on for you.
 - **May I remind you this morning that because Jesus walks on water to get to us, this should radically change how we view Him and how we live our lives.**
- As we've walked through the text, we've seen this in 5 ways:
 - **Point 1: Prioritize Personal Prayer. (V. 45-47)**
 - **Point 2: Purposefully Seek Out Others' Pain. (V. 48-49)**
 - **Point 3: Place your Fears in His Hands. (V. 50-51)**
 - **Point 4: Protect Yourself from Potential Temptation. (V. 52)**
 - **Point 5: Potential Needs are Needs Met. (V. 53-56)**
- I don't know what you're going through this morning. What your week was like or what your upcoming week will be like.

- *What I do know, is that our God loves you so much, that there is no water that He won't walk on, for you!*