

Greetings:

The study that Pastor Pat brings on Sunday mornings is a reflection of the study for that week. It represents a lot of research. Not all of what he has prepared is communicated. In an attempt to continue the learning process, he is making available his study notes to the congregation.

They are edited, but not “book” ready. To the critical eye mistakes can be found. So he asks that you take the material with humility, teach-ability, and charity.

Enjoy and if you should have any questions or corrections, please do not hesitate to email him at pastorpat@waukeshabile.org.

Date: **November 16, 2008**

Title: **The Storm on the Sea of Galilee**

Text: Mark 6:45-52 ([See also 4:35-43] Gospel Parallels - Matt. 14:22-33; John 6:15-21)

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Introduction:

Verse 45 suggests the events are happening in rapid succession. His intent earlier was to have a time of rest and seclusion. That idea is picked up from verses 31 and 32.

Sometimes we look at the difficulty we're in and we wonder, "Did I do something to deserve this? Am I being punished for something? Am I outside of God's will?" How do we respond to such internal questioning? How would we have responded to our difficulties if we were the patriarch Job?

THE BIG PICTURE:

Putting the pieces together, we see Jesus with authority over demons (5:1-20), death (5:21-24, 35-43), and disease (5:25-34). Now in chapter six, Mark gives us a panoramic view of a variety of events.

- The Sin of Unbelief (vv 1-6)
- The Sending of the Twelve (vv. 7-13, 30-32)
- The Slaying of John the Baptist (vv. 14-29)
- The Supplying of food for the 5000 (vv. 33-45 [cf 8:1-9])
- **The Storm on the Sea of Galilee (vv 46-52)**
- The Summarizing of His Ministry (vv 53-56)

Its Eternal Value:

There is never a situation in life where God is not in control or does not care.

The Problem:

The crowds had become so excited that they were in the mood to start a revolution against the Roman government and proclaim Jesus king.

The Storyline:

Jesus commands all elements to bow before Him. His people can trust Him to control and to care. They have nothing to fear.

Questions:

1. Why did Jesus send His disciples away? Consider John 6:15.
2. What did Jesus do while alone?
3. Where were the disciples?
4. Did Jesus intend to stop even though the disciples were struggling?
5. What might this tell you about your struggles in life?
6. Why were the disciples afraid when they saw Jesus?
7. What did Jesus say in response to their fear?

8. Why did Mark exclude the part about Peter walking on the water (Matt. 14:28-31)?
9. How does this event tie into the feeding of the 5,000?
10. Why did they not yet “get it”?
11. What do you think is the “big idea” behind this passage?

The Holy Spirit is calling to us from this passage to consider three ideas.

To Know: The Holy Spirit desires for us to know God is able to do above and beyond what we could ask or think.

To Choose: The Holy Spirit desires for us to choose to rest in Him in the midst of our storms.

To Feel: The Holy Spirit desires for us to feel the joy of resting in His control and care.

Outline:

- I. The Concern (vv. 45, 46)

Our Lord is a shepherd (6:34) and as such the words of Acts 20:28 ring true.

“Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood” (Acts 20:28).

- A. He has concern for the well-being of His disciples (v. 45)
- B. He has concern for His well-being (v. 46 [cf. Acts 20:28])

No matter what else happens, shepherds must tend to the sheep and not be neglectful of their own health and well-being.

- II. The Circumstances (vv. 47-51)

There are at least seven principles worth noting in this passage. I trust I will be faithful to the text.

- A. Our Lord knows every storm and sees every struggle (vv. 45, 48)
 1. He made the disciples get into the boat (v. 45)

The word “made” is **anagkazo**. It means “to necessitate, to compel, and to constrain.” It is a forceful word. He was not inviting, He was ordering, directing, leading.

2. They were straining at the oars (v. 48)

The word “straining” is **basanizo**. It is the same word used in Matthew 14:24 to describe the same event. It speaks of being tormented, in pain, or vexed. It is the same word used in Mark 5:7 where the demons asked Jesus not to torment them. It is also used five times in Revelation for the torment experienced during the tribulation period (Rev. 9:5; 11:10; 12:2; 14:10; 20:10).

As difficult as this is, God led them into the storm. We have seen this time and again. God is the one who leads us into temptation/test. I know we like to differentiate between temptation and test, but the Bible does not. Every test is a temptation and every temptation is a test.

- It was the Holy Spirit who led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted/tested by the Devil.
- In the Disciples Prayer our Lord said, “Lead us not into temptation/test.”

You are in your pain and place of torment because God has led you there, and you are to take comfort in knowing He is in control and He cares for you. There is a purpose behind every temptation/test. God is not wasting any moment you are experiencing. If we could have you testify to this truth, many of you would tell of feeling alone and abandoned of questioning the goodness of God only to find that He is in control and He truly cares.

“Early in the morning” is between three and six A.M.

B. Our Lord does not intend to stop every storm or struggle (v. 48)

It is an interesting thought contained in verse 48. Our Lord intended to pass them by. It was not His intent to stop the storm. I find this thought interesting. Earlier in Mark 4 Jesus is in the boat. Now they find themselves in a similar situation and Jesus is not with them. He is perhaps weaning them of His presence and inviting them to trust Him even when they cannot see Him.

I believe we are in grievous error when we think that God wants our lives to be easy and comfortable. We pray for deliverance, but above that we pray for His will to be done. **And in that prayer we pray we will accept His will as it is played out in our lives and in the lives of others.**

C. Our Lord is sensitive to our limits (vv. 50, 51 [1 Cor. 10:12, 13]).

Jesus invites us to “take heart.” It means to be encouraged, to be comforted. When we realize that Jesus is in our midst we do not have to be afraid.

¹² “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall. ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and **God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but**

with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it" (1 Cor. 10:12, 13).

God is with you in your storm. He knows what you are going through and He is for your strength, hope, and courage.

D. Our Lord invites us to trust Him in our storms (Matt. 14:28-31)

In Matthew's account, Peter asks to join His Lord on the water. Initially Peter walks on the water, however, in seeing the storm he begins to sink. What we must realize is that in every storm Jesus is holding our hand. He is in the storm with us. He will not let us go.

Jesus did not stop the storm when Peter walked on the water. Jesus fully expected Peter to live in the storm and above the storm. When we find ourselves in the storms of life, if we focus on the storm we will fail to see our Lord who is mighty to save.

"It is the simple fact of life, a fact which has been proved by countless thousands of men and women in every generation, that when Christ is there the storm becomes a calm, the tumult becomes a peace, what cannot be done is done, the unbearable becomes bearable, and men pass the breaking point and do not break. To walk with Christ will be for us also the conquest of the storm." (William Barclay, *Mark*, 161).

III. The Conclusion (v. 52)

- A. Our storms and struggles are to test us to see if we have learned anything (v. 52).
- B. Our inability to understand the struggle is often linked to our hardness of heart (v. 52).

Just as Jesus expected them to feed the multitude in His behalf, so also could they have rested in the storm and walked on the water in Jesus' name. They were still not fully processing the magnitude of His person and work.

Our inability to believe is tied directly to our complete and total depravity. May God continue to increase our faith.

C. Our storms are opportunities to worship God (Matt. 14:33).

It is hard to understand, but those who experience some of life's most severe storms worship God the deepest.

Shepherding the Sheep (What's the NEXT STEP?)

1. God has led you into your storm.
2. You are there because He is in control and He does care.
3. God is not going to stop every storm you are in.
4. God invites you to rest in Him in your storm. You can walk on the water.
5. Your storm is a test to see if you trust Him.
6. Your lack of faith is because of the tension between your old nature and your new nature.
7. The storms of life are excellent opportunities to worship God.