

## **They Thought He Was A Ghost** **Mark 6:45-56**

There is something in us that wants to be more than self-sufficient – we want to be indestructible, immortalized and in control – and we fool ourselves in this fantasy as long as life is easy – but then when hit with the reality of our weakness, we are brought low.

If you are going to live life as fully as God has ordained for you then you have to settle two realities in your mind and heart:

### 1. You Aren't in Control

Regardless of how you cut it, Jesus sent the Disciples out knowing the Storm was going to come. Now that can enrage you – in other words, you can be angry that God would do this – or it can settle your heart – because if God sends you into the storm, it means you don't go into it without reason and without Him.

The myth is that we have control over anything.

### 2. Christ is in Control

Admitting that we are not in control is one thing – but relinquishing the reins into someone else's hands is another.

**Job 9:8** – He alone stretches out the heavens and treads on the waves of the sea.

At some point we have to decide whether or not we trust Jesus – and if we do, then we have to let go. It is easy to say that we trust Him, but doing it is another thing. Sometimes it is just a matter of

getting in the boat – accepting the fact that we don't know how the story is going to shake out – because we don't!

### Two Assurances:

- Your inability to navigate your storms doesn't negate Christ's ability to see you in them.

Do you know this about Jesus? That in your darkest night and in the midst of your most dangerous trials, He sees with complete clarity.

**Isaiah 43:2** – When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

- Your Grip on life is weaker than you think, but God's Grip on you is greater than you can imagine.

I think what heartens me more than anything in this passage is that Jesus' faithfulness is unshaken by His disciples' unbelief. As with us, the disciples are far weaker than they wanted to think themselves to be.

But our strength isn't a prerequisite for God's care – In fact it is the recognition... weakness that signals His Mercy.

Who is this God you serve?

**Isaiah 50:2** – "...Do I lack the strength to rescue you? By a mere rebuke I dry up the sea, I turn rivers into a desert..."

The Gospel is more far-reaching than God being able to prove to us that He is Sovereign.

The Gospel is the announcement that God has sent Jesus to restore all things – to make all things new – as they were created to be. Until the Church settles this it will always see life and fight on man's terms.

By walking on the water Jesus demonstrates more than the fact... handle our adversities, but that He is **greater** than the dangers, threats and terrors of the created order – even the unseen, unknown ones – that His Lordship extends to the entire Universe.

And He strikes at the heart of our paralysis – ‘Do not be afraid.’ And what Jesus does is that He replaces the vacuum of assurance in His friends – with Himself – “It is I.”

Acts like this one in particular are more than miraculous – they stand to proclaim that what we fear, Christ has trampled – what we avoid, He walks on – what we can't see, He has mastered.

So stop for a moment – take this in for all that it is:

- Jesus replaces your Fear with Himself.
- Jesus unleashes His own presence on your terrors, your adversities, your adversaries and your weaknesses.
- What we learn of Jesus isn't intended to fill our minds with information – it is to convince our entire beings that He IS and that He is here and that He is ours.

**Therefore...**

- Will you worship at the altar of your idols of materialism and superstition and doubt and self while fighting waves you cannot tame?
- Will you resist the One who has trampled your worst fears and conquered your greatest enemies?

But there is more: In the Bible the sea is an interesting thing – we find that God has ordained a purpose for it.

**Micah 7:19** – You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

But what makes this powerful is found in **Revelation 21:1** – “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.”

**Psalms 46:2-4** – [vs. 1 – God our “refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”]

“Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God...”

In Redemption, the stream isn't water – it is blood – the blood of Jesus whose death was sufficient to cover our sins, and whose resurrection was another of those moments where He has trampled what we don't dare to challenge. And it is this reality that enables us to let go of the notion that we have control – and to trust Jesus.

**Song of Solomon 8:7** – Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away. If one were to give all the wealth of his house for love, it would be utterly scorned.