

Straining At The Oars Mark 6:45-53

Jesus literally pushes His disciples into a boat that would lead them into a storm.
Mark 6:45

3 of the gospels record this miracle of Jesus walking on the water:

Matthew 14:22-36; Mark 6:45-53; John 6:15-21

Only **Matthew** records Peter walking on the water.

Mark 4:35-41 "Calming The Storm"

1. In that storm, Jesus was with them in the boat. In this storm, Jesus was away on a mountain.
2. In that storm, it was gale-force wind and waves that were filling the boat, and it was sinking. In this storm, it was wind that was against them, they were rowing but were getting nowhere.
3. In that storm, Jesus calmed the storm. In this, He did several miracles. He walked on the water, Peter walked on the water, He calmed the sea, and when He got into the boat they were on the other side.
4. In that storm, Jesus was asleep in the boat. In this, He was on a mountain praying.

This storm is an encouragement to obedient Christians that are weary, "Straining At The Oars!"

Thought of Our Passage: "The Weary Obedient Disciple Of Jesus, Need Not Fear, Because Jesus Will Come In Our Hour Of Darkness"

1. Verses 45-48 Obedience And Its Difficulties:

2. Verses 48-53 Obedience And Its Rewards:

1. Verses 45-48 Obedience And Its Difficulties:

Mark 6:45 And immediately (49 times) He made His disciples get into the boat

(Context) Jesus had just fed the five thousand, **Mark 6:33-44**

made His disciples get into the boat

The word - **made**

"constrained, to compel, drive to, whether by force, or threats"

Why Did Jesus Force His Disciples Into The Boat? John 6:15

and go ahead of Him

"Jesus would follow later" (Disciples went solo in the boat)

Mark 6:35 quite late. (Now 6-7 PM)

to the other side to Bethsaida,

Luke 9:10 a city called Bethsaida. Bethsaida was a suburb of Capernaum.

John 6:17 "Go to Capernaum." Capernaum was on the west side and Bethsaida was somewhere along the path. Bethsaida was a suburb of Capernaum.

Mark 6:53 end up at Gennesaret which is next to Capernaum.

while He Himself was sending the multitude away.

I Wish we had these words!

Mark 6:46 He departed to the mountain to pray.

Temptation to bypass the cross and be King without suffering.

Jesus Depended Upon Prayer: He departed (*"fled"*) to the mountain to pray. (Jesus prays all night)

Mark 14:38

The following day the earthy ministry of Jesus would be changed forever. (Jesus Would Lose His Popularity) John 6:66

Mark 6:47 And when it was evening, the boat was in the midst of the sea, John 6:19

He was alone on the land. Jesus continues to pray. Praying for the disciples!

Mark 6:48

God Sees Our Difficulties: And seeing them straining at the oars, (Only Mark Records This)

This Is Supernatural – Jesus is seeing the disciples several miles away in the dark!

straining - *"to torcher with grievous pains of body or mind, to torment, to be harassed"*

Note: This Storm Was The Result Of The Disciples' Obedience:

There are 3 Truths regarding trials that we should remember:

- 1. Trials Are The Common Experience Of All:**
- 2. Trials Are Transitory:** 1 Peter 1:6
- 3. Trials Present To Us Lessons That Shouldn't Be Wasted:**

Jesus Is Praying For Us. Hebrews 7:25

for the wind was against them, "contrary" Matthew "waves"

at about the fourth watch of the night,

This is 3-6 AM, the darkest time

2. Verses 48-53 Obedience And Its Rewards:

Mark 6:48 He came to them, walking on the sea;

When it was the darkest hour

1 Corinthians 10:13; Acts 27

and He intended to pass by them. Why Would Jesus Pass By?

So that the disciples would recognize Him and invite Him into their boat.

Mark 6:49 it was a ghost, "spirit, apparition" They obviously were not expecting Jesus! Mark 6:45 go ahead of Him

Jesus will use a storm as a passageway into our lives!

cried out; "to cry from the depths of the throat"

The Disciples did not understand His person or who Jesus really is. (Jesus Comes To Rescue!)

Mark 6:50 for they all saw Him (Not Hallucination)

and were frightened.

The test was to see how they were doing spiritually.

The Word Of God Brings A Calm: But immediately He spoke with them and said to them, "Take courage; it is I, do not be afraid."

The Word Of God Encourages: "Take courage; Job 9:8

The Word Of God Drives Us To God: it is I,

This is no other than the great "I Am!" **Exodus 3:14**

The Word Of God Instructs Us: do not be afraid." Isaiah 43:1-2

Matthew alone records Peter walking on the water. **Matthew 14:28-31**

Mark 6:51 the wind stopped; Literally *"the wind stopped suddenly."*

Matthew and **John's** Gospel speaks of another miracle that takes place.
John 6:21

When we invite Jesus into our boat, the miraculous takes place.

Mark Records The Inward Response: they were greatly astonished,
Literally, *"they were out of their minds, insane, to be beside oneself"*

Matthew Records The Outward Response: Matthew 14:33

Worship – *"is acknowledging who God is, it is praising Him for who He is and what He has done"* (Inward and outward)

Mark 6:52 had not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves,

**The Disciples Failed To Gain Insight From The First Storm:
Mark 4:40-41**

heart was hardened. Literally, *"petrify, cover with a thick-skin, metaphor to lose the power of understanding, to be stupid"*

Mark 6:53 Western side close to Capernaum about 4-6 miles.
Philippians 1:6

Mark 4:35-41 God gives re-takes, the world gives up on us.

Application:

- 1.** In The Storm, Though Jesus Appeared To Be Absent, Mark Exclusively Records That Jesus Kept His Eyes On His Disciples:
- 2.** The Weary Obedient Disciple Of Jesus, Need Not Fear, Because Jesus Will Come In Our Hour Of Darkness:
- 3.** Jesus Will Use A Storm As A Passageway Into Our Lives. In A Storm Always Look For Jesus And Invite Him In:
- 4.** Worship Is Acknowledging Who God Is, It Is Praising Him For Who He Is And What He Has Done: