

Mark 6.45-56 Jesus Walks on the Water

(Mt. 14.22-33; Jn. 6.15-21)

45 Καὶ εὐθὺς ἠνάγκασεν τοὺς μαθητὰς αὐτοῦ ἐμβῆναι εἰς τὸ πλοῖον καὶ προάγειν εἰς τὸ πέραν πρὸς Βηθσαιδάν, ἔως αὐτὸς ἀπολύει τὸν ὄχλον.

45 Immediately Jesus **made** His disciples **get** into the boat and **go ahead of Him** to the other side to Bethsaida, while He Himself **was sending** the crowd away.

46 καὶ ἀποταξάμενος αὐτοῖς ἀπῆλθεν εἰς τὸ ὄρος προσεύξασθαι.

46 **After bidding** them farewell, **He left** for the mountain **to pray**.

47 καὶ ὀψίας γενομένης ἦν τὸ πλοῖον ἐν μέσῳ τῆς θαλάσσης, καὶ αὐτὸς μόνος ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς.

47 **When it was** evening, the boat was in the middle of the sea, and He was alone on the land.

48 καὶ ἰδὼν αὐτοὺς βασανιζομένους ἐν τῷ ἐλαύνειν, ἦν γὰρ ὁ ἄνεμος ἐναντίος αὐτοῖς, περὶ τετάρτην φυλακὴν τῆς νυκτὸς ἔρχεται πρὸς αὐτοὺς περιπατῶν ἐπὶ τῆς θαλάσσης καὶ ἤθελεν παρελθεῖν αὐτούς.

48 **Seeing** them **straining** at the **oars**, for the wind **was** against them, at about the **fourth watch of the night** **He came** to them, **walking** on the sea; and **He intended to pass** by them.

Dic 1 "fourth watch of the night" The Jews reckoned three military watches: the "first" or beginning of the watches (Lam. 2:19), from sunset to ten o'clock; the second or "middle watch" was from ten until two o'clock (Judg. 7:19); the third, "the morning watch," from two to sunrise (Exo. 14:24; 1 Sam. 11:11). Afterward under the Romans they had four watches (Mt. 14:25): Luke 12:38, "even, midnight, cockcrowing, and morning" (Mark 13:35); ending respectively at 9 p.m., midnight, 3 a.m., and 6 a.m. (compare Acts 12:4.) Watchmen patrolled the streets (Song 3:3; 5:7; Ps. 127:1).

C1 Jesus could easily calm the waves from shore, but why did he not do it?

A2 **He intended to pass** There are at least two common interpretations: (1) it refers to the perspective of the disciples, that is, from their point of view it seemed that Jesus wanted to pass by them; or (2) it refers to a theophany and uses the language of the Greek Old Testament (LXX) when God "passed by" Moses at Sinai (cf. **Exod 33:19, 22**). According to the latter alternative, Jesus is "passing by" the disciples during their struggle, in order to assure them of his presence with them. See W L. Lane, *Mark* (NICNT), 236.

B1 Answering the question in 4.41?

[A theophany is a manifestation of God in the Bible that is tangible to the human senses. In its most restrictive sense, it is a visible appearance of God in the Old Testament period, often, but not always, in human form.]

49 οἱ δὲ ἰδόντες αὐτὸν ἐπὶ τῆς θαλάσσης περιπατοῦντα ἔδοξαν ὅτι φάντασμα ἔστιν, καὶ ἀνέκραξαν·

49 **But when they saw** Him **walking** on the sea, **they supposed** that **it was** a ghost, and **cried out**;

50 πάντες γὰρ αὐτὸν εἶδον καὶ ἔταράχθησαν. ὁ δὲ εὐθὺς ἐλάλησεν μετ' αὐτῶν, καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς· **θαρσεῖτε, ἐγὼ εἰμι· μὴ φοβεῖσθε.**

50 for they all **saw** Him and **were terrified**. But immediately **He spoke** with them and **said** to them, "**Take courage; it is I, do not be afraid.**"

B1 Like God in the OT, Jesus calms their troubled hearts by identifying himself, echoes Exo. 3.14.

C1. Only Mt. 14.28-31 adds in details of Peter walking on the water to meet Jesus.

51 καὶ ἀνέβη πρὸς αὐτοὺς εἰς τὸ πλοῖον καὶ ἐκόπασεν ὁ ἄνεμος, καὶ λίαν [ἐκ περισσοῦ] ἐν ἑαυτοῖς ἐξίσταντο·

51 Then **He got** into the boat with them, and the wind **stopped**; and **they were** utterly **astonished**,

52 οὐ γὰρ **συνήκων** ἐπὶ τοῖς ἄρτοις, ἀλλ' ἦν αὐτῶν ἡ καρδία **πεπωρωμένη**.

52 for they had not **gained any insight** from the *incident* of the loaves, but their heart **was hardened**.

53 Καὶ **διαπεράσαντες** ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν **ἦλθον** εἰς Γεννησαρέτ καὶ **προσωμίσθησαν**.

53 **When they had crossed over they came** to land at **Gennesaret**, and **moored** to the shore.

**B1 Photo of Jesus to non-Jewish places.** Jesus' ministry beyond Israel: Tyre and Sidon where he healed a Gentile woman's daughter (Mt. 15.22); healed many people in Decapolis (Mk. 7.31); Peter confessed Christ and son of the living God in extreme northern border at Caesarea Philippi (Mt. 16.16).

54 καὶ **ἐξεληθόντων αὐτῶν** ἐκ τοῦ πλοίου εὐθὺς **ἐπιγινόντες** αὐτὸν

54 **When they got out** of the boat, immediately **the people recognized** Him,

55 **περιέδραμον** ὅλην τὴν χώραν ἐκείνην καὶ **ἤρξαντο** ἐπὶ τοῖς κραβάττοις **τοὺς** κακῶς **ἔχοντας** **περιφέρειν** ὅπου **ἤκουον** ὅτι **ἐστίν**.

55 and **ran about** that whole country and **began to carry** here and there on their pallets **those who were** sick, to the place **they heard He was**.

56 καὶ ὅπου ἂν **εἰσπορεύετο** εἰς κώμας ἢ εἰς πόλεις ἢ εἰς ἀγρούς, ἐν ταῖς ἀγοραῖς **ἐτίθεσαν** τοὺς ἀσθενοῦντας καὶ **παρεκάλουν** αὐτὸν ἵνα κἂν τοῦ κρασπέδου τοῦ ἱματίου αὐτοῦ **ἄψωνται**; καὶ ὅσοι ἂν **ἤψαντο** αὐτοῦ **ἐσώζοντο**.

56 Wherever **He entered** villages, or cities, or countryside, **they were laying** the sick in the market places, and **imploring** Him that **they might just touch** the fringe of His cloak; and as many as **touched** it **were being cured**.

### Reflection

Where are you straining at the oars? How did Jesus' words speak to that storm (v. 50)?