

Fearless with Jesus
(Matt 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-56; John 6:15-21)

A. Let's get back to our theme: "Christ in you, the hope of glory".

Colossians 1:27-28

28 [Paul wrote] We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

1. Our lesson on proper dress fit into that theme, since we cannot truly "be complete" in Christ until we have properly clothed ourselves in this world of darkness and sin.

B. But today we want to look at one of Jesus' miracles, which teaches us that we, as Christians, can live w/out fear.

1. Last year (November) we had a lesson from Mark 4 on Jesus calming the storm.
 - a. The disciples were afraid, even though Jesus was with them in the boat.
 - b. This miracles (Mark 6; Matt 14; John 6) is similar in some ways, but not the same.

- The disciples are in a boat
- ...on the Sea of Galilee
- ...facing high winds and waves
- ...and they are terrified
- ...but this time, Jesus in not in the boat

2. Fear is an emotion that can control us:

- a. War, Work, Health, Expenses, Family, Children, Marriage, Old Age, etc.

3. But the lesson in both miracles (Mark 4, 6) is that when fear intersects our lives only the Lord can calm our fears and give us courage.

- a. "Christ in you" IS "the hope of glory", Paul said (Col 1:27).
- b. But to obtain that final glory in Heaven with God, we're going to have to overcome many fears.
- c. And that's what we learn from Jesus as He walked out on the sea to His disciples (Mark 6:45-52).

C. Just before this miracle, remember, Jesus fed over 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish, and He did that to show us that we have more than enough when He is near.

1. That miracle illustrated God providing manna from heaven for the Israelites while they were sojourning the wilderness.

2. It also illustrated that Jesus, the True Bread out of Heaven (Bread of Life) will provide BOTH for the material and spiritual needs of those who follow Him.

D. Let me give you an interesting comparison:

1. The LORD God led Israel out of Egypt by showing His power over the water — parting the Red Sea, to rescue them.

a. He also gave them the Promised Land in the same way — parting the Jordan River to give them rest.

2. In our text (Mark 6:45-52), Jesus is showing His power over the water to rescue His disciples to give them rest or peace of mind.

[But we cannot properly deal with any fear, until we understand “More about Jesus”.]

I. MORE ABOUT JESUS

A. He is devoted to your salvation.

1. He is literally seeking to save the lost.

Luke 19:9-10

9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For ***the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.***"

a. That has never ceased to be true; ---though now He uses His disciples to do that good work.

2. But neither has He ever stopped praying for the salvation of His disciples.

Hebrews 7:24

24 ...***He continues forever***, holds ***His priesthood permanently.***
25 Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since ***He always lives to make intercession for them.*** [when we pray]

Luke 22:31-32

31 Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; 32 but ***I have prayed for you***, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

Mark 6:45-46

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

- a. What was He praying about?

John 6:14-15 (John's account of our text)

14 ...when the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world." 15 So Jesus, **perceiving that they were intending to come & take Him by force to make Him king**, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone.

3. **But was there something else troubling Him?** Yes, there was...

Mark 6:47-48

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

- a. The fourth watch of the night was between 3 and 6 a.m.

- b. Jesus, in the pitch black night during a storm, SAW HIS MEN STRUGGLING, AND KNEW THEY WERE AFRAID.
- c. And so why wouldn't He be praying for them until such time as He would dispatch the cause of their fears?

4. **The point is:** Jesus prays for us as we go through the storms of life.

- a. He "knows and cares" (as the old hymn says) when we struggle.
- b. We may lose sight of Him (disciples), but He never loses sight of us.
- c. He is always interceding ("He ever lives to make intercession" for us).
- d. So --- the only way can we be overcome by our fears, is when we doubt the Lord's presence/power to help us.

James 1:5-7

5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But **he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.** 7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,

[Not only is Jesus *devoted* to your salvation, ...]

B. He is *preparing* you for salvation.

1. **Did Jesus know** what He was doing when He put His disciples in that boat and told them to cross over the sea?
 - a. Did He know what was going to happen to them on the sea that night?
 - b. Of course, as tragic and deadly as storms can be, they are never a surprise to God.
2. **In this case**, the storm was sent to TEST the disciples:
 - a. When are test given? After the lessons have been taught.
 - b. The disciples were supposed to have learned (from the previous miracle).
 - c. They were supposed to have learned that with Jesus they are all-sufficient.
 - d. Now Jesus is testing the degree of their faith; the genuineness of it.

e. He is putting their faith to test (Jas 1:2-6; 1 Pet 1:3-9).

James 1:2-4

2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 **knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance**. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

3. **So the lesson is “Be alert”**, because after we have learned lessons like this one, then the testing will follow.
 - a. Don’t ever say, “Why me, when you’re afraid.”
 - b. Because at that point your given the chance to prove that you have learned the reason you don’t need to be afraid, if you are faithful to the Lord.
4. **What follows the testing?** It is worth it? Eternal salvation!

1 Peter 1:6-9

6 ...you have been distressed by various trials 7 so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 **obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls**.

- a. Jesus put His disciples in that boat to prepare them for salvation!

[Not only is Jesus devoted to your salvation, and preparing you for salvation, ...]

C. He wants to encourage you along the way to salvation.

- 1. **Jesus didn't just stay in that mountain praying** for His disciples did he?

Mark 6:48

~~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.

- 2. **It wasn't Jesus' intention** to get into the boat with them.

- a. Apparently, He just wanted them to see that He was near – alleviate their fears.

- Kind of like a Father running alongside his child as he learns to ride a bicycle.

- b. Jesus was there to encourage them, not to take them out of the storm.

- 3. **But then it became clear** that His presence wasn't enough encouragement for them.

- a. Why? Because they weren't looking for Him, they weren't seeing Him.

- b. They were seeing ghosts, and they were getting more afraid by the minute.

Mark 6:49-52

49 But when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed that it was a ghost, and cried out; 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."** 51 **Then He got into the boat with them, and the wind stopped;** and they were utterly astonished, 52 for they had not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves, but their heart was hardened.

- 4. **The point:** We can't adequately calm our fears with T.V., Facebook and novels,

...only when we come to know who Jesus really is, and look for Him when we are afraid (He's always near).

- a. Our confidence must lie in the Son of God Who conquered sin at the cross and conquered death at the tomb.

- He is the one walking near the boat during the storm.
- He is the one who will get into the boat with us if need be (Heb 2:14-18).

[We can't be passive in dealing with our fears.

We must look for the Lord and expect to see Him, knowing that He is always with us.]

CLOSING

- A. When something comes along that would make anyone afraid, but you are not afraid, what has caused you to be unafraid?
 - 1. **Something or Someone** has given you courage.
 - a. Courage is a quality of spirit that enables you to face danger or pain without showing fear.
- B. Jesus gave His disciples courage.
 - 1. His prayers for prevention
 - 2. His presence for protection
 - 3. His words for comfort (hope)

- C. We haven't even mentioned Peter's ordeal yet in this event.
 - 1. **In Matthew's account**, Peter wants to come to Jesus on the sea.

Matthew 14:28-31

28 Peter said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." 29 And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But seeing the wind, **he became frightened**, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

- a. Peter lost courage when he took his eyes off the Lord.
- b. But he regained courage when Jesus stretched out His hand to save him.

Lesson: Jesus will go as far as necessary to save us if we will walk toward Him.

Romans 8:38-39

38 **For I am convinced that** neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other **[no] created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Psalms 27:1 (David: A Psalm of Fearless Trust in God)

1 **The Lord is** my light and my salvation;

Whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the defense of my life;

Whom shall I dread?

D. Christians don't live in fear of anything.

1. Because of the Savior's cross and His empty tomb and resurrected life.
2. And because we can't ever lose anything that truly matters to God.

E. But if you're not a Christian, then you have every reason to be afraid.

1. You're living outside the will of God.
2. Rather than being in state of God's grace, you are under His condemnation for sin.
3. You will face His judgment unprepared unless you act quickly.
4. Don't live another minute in fear, "Come the Christ and pardon take". Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Pet 3:21