

The Son of Man and The Sea

Week 1: *Walking on Water*

APPETIZER: Child-like faith

“Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” **Mark 10:15**

DINE IN: Who is Jesus, really?

Mark 6:45-52

TWO QUESTIONS WHEN READING THE GOSPELS

1. What does the story mean on its own?
2. How does the story fit within the larger story?

OVERVIEW OF MARK CHAPTER 6

- A Prophet Without Honour (1-6)
- Jesus Sends Out the Twelve (6-13)
- John the Baptist Beheaded (14-29)
- Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand (30-44)
- Jesus Walks on the Water (45-56)

The central question in Mark: “who is Jesus, really?”

Jesus compared to John the Baptist, Elijah, other prophets (**Mark 6:14-16, 8:27-29, BONUS 9:2-4**)

JESUS WALKING ON WATER DESCRIBES A THEOPHANY

- Water-walking was reserved for God alone (**Psalm 77:19, Job 9:8**)
- **Mark 6:48** *Parerchomai* (“to pass by”) is the language of theophany (**1 Kings 19:11, Exodus 33:21-22, Job 9:8-11**)
- **Mark 6:50** “*It is I*” = “*I am*” (**Exodus 3:14, Isaiah 41:4**)
- **Mark 6:50** “*Don’t be afraid*” see **Genesis 15:1, 26:24; Judges 6:23**, etc.

LESSONS FROM PETER’S WALK

- Peter **asks**, then **acts**
- Little faith ≠ no faith
- Faith is action, not intellectual assent

Matthew
14:22-33

TAKE OUT: I’ll Have That To Go Please

TAKE OUT #1: WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

At some point we have to face the question Peter faced in **Mark 8**: Who do you say Jesus is? This may mean recognizing him for the first time (is Jesus God?), or taking seriously your mental picture of God (does he look like Jesus?)

TAKE OUT #2: WHERE DO YOU NEED TO STEP OUT OF THE BOAT?

Where do you see Jesus today? We can’t always ask and get a direct answer like Peter did. What do you already know from scripture, community, or experience that pushes you into uncomfortable territory?

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. After reviewing Sunday's message, talk about what stood out to you – lingering questions, "ah hah" moments, or convicting truths.

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

2. Read through Mark and Matthew's accounts (**Mark 6:45-52, Matthew 14:22-33**).
 - a. How are they different?
 - b. How are they the same?
 - c. What purpose might lie behind each author's choices?
 - d. What might this tell us about Mark's original audience, vs. Matthew's?
3. Look up these glimpses of Jesus' identity at different points in Mark. Who is Jesus said to be?
 - a. The beginning - **Mark 1:1-12**
 - b. Jesus walking on water – **Mark 6:45-52**
 - c. Peter's declaration – **Mark 8:27-30**
 - d. His death – **Mark 15:25-38**
4. Share about a time you took a risk. How did it work out? How did you see it at the time, and how do you see it now?
5. Consider Jesus' words "Take Courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." Where might God be telling you not to be afraid?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

6. Review the Take Outs.
 - a. Who do you say Jesus is?
 - b. Where do you need to get out of the boat?
7. Use your 2/4/6/8 Huddle Questions

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Quotes

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.
- The Bible, page 1

"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea. Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea."
- Daniel 7:2-3

For Jews, the sea was traditionally an abode of monsters that were capable of causing a storm and torrent on the sea at night. Little wonder then, that the apostles, on seeing Jesus walking on the sea, thought it was a ghost.
- Father Ignatius Washima Him

Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray. . .

. . . Later that night, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. Shortly before dawn he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, because they all saw him and were terrified. . .

. . . Immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened.
- Mark 6:45-52