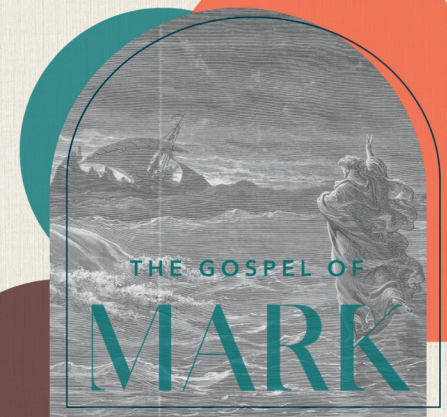


October 29, 2023

COURAGE IN THE STORM

Pastor Jason Uptmore // Mark 6:45-56



PREPARE YOUR HEART & MIND

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.



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.

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. 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.

53 When they had crossed over they came to land at Gennesaret, and moored to the shore. 54 When they got out of the boat, immediately the people recognized Him, 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 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.



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GROW IN THE WORD

- How did the disciples respond to Jesus walking on the water, and how do you think Jesus wanted them to respond? Notice Mark's commentary on their response and compare the passage to Exodus 34:6-9.

- In what ways can you respond more like Moses in Exodus rather than the disciples in this passage?

- 02. Jesus arrived in Gennesaret with his disciples, and immediately those on the shore recognized Jesus. The people brought along their sick for healing and Jesus' fame grew in the surrounding villages, cities, and countryside. Wherever he went, many came with their sick and sought merely to touch Jesus' cloak to receive mercy (v. 53-56).**
- What are some things about Jesus that Mark made clear through these verses? Consider also Matthew 11:28-30.



GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Pray to begin your group time. Remind the group why you are meeting: to connect in meaningful relationships, to grow spiritually, and to engage in the life and work of the church together. Reflect on the values you want to share as a group (i.e. confidentiality, authenticity, grace).

CONNECT (30-40 MIN)

You can use these suggestions to foster connection and build community in your group. You can break your group into smaller parts if needed, pick a question to discuss, and let each member get to know one another.

- Spend a few minutes reminding each other of your group's main goals. Take some time to discuss how things are going.
- Ask the second question in the Connect section of the passage guide and give each person a chance to respond.

GROW (30-40 MIN)

Gather back as a big group if you broke up earlier and have one person pray over your time discussing God's word. As you discuss, don't worry if there are questions left unanswered or unresolved. Reach out to ministry leaders or pastors for any needed clarification.

- Read each section of Scripture you are focusing on prior to discussion. Share observations and the things that stand out most from each section.
- Select 1 or 2 questions that resonate most with you or your group for each section. Read cross-references together if the questions have them.

ENGAGE (30-40 MIN)

Reflect on the biblical truth God revealed to you this week and discuss a plan of action to apply what you have learned. Gather in smaller groups of 2-4 again. Discuss your plan of action and pray for one another.

- Discuss the last question in each section. How can you apply the text to your life?
- Close group time by sharing prayer requests and praying for one another.