

**Dec 30<sup>th</sup> 2007: Series on Mark: God Treads The Waves :Mark 6:45-56**

**As we look forward into**.....year of unknowns.....**we** do so with a range of emotions  
For us all there would be some joyful anticipations.....and **some** trepidation  
**The mix between the two will vary**.....according to our age....circumstances...plans

**But whatever that mix may be**.....the following story from Mark 6:45-56....is an apt reminder  
That God has no intention of leaving us to face the future.....esp the tough times ...by ourselves

**FOLLOW WITH ME AS WE READ FROM MARK 6:45-56.....**

**Straight away.....2 things that strike me:**

**The first** .....is that Jesus made the disciples get into that boat...  
It was not their choice to be making that journey...without Him...at that time

I tend to think that they may have wanted to stay  
They had just fed 5,000.....And in John's a/c.....KING

**BUT that wasn't Jesus' plan**.....SO He sent them away.....while He dismissed the crowd

**The second** .....after..... Jesus went up the mountain to pray  
He needed to communicate with His Father.....more than He needed to rest up  
He needed time away from everyone.....Time to replenish His spiritual batteries

• **The Major story however....revolves around the disciples out on the lake**  
**They would have left**....absolutely hyped up.....No doubt they didn't stop talking about it...1<sup>st</sup> hour  
**Then the wind had turned against them**....night had fallen.....middle of the lake straining..oars

• **It was not a dangerous situation**.....It was just hard.....and frustrating  
They seemed to be rowing and getting nowhere

**At that point in time**.....being part of Jesus' special group.....was not a joyful thing  
But a hard.....unproductive...and frustrating struggle.  
**In a matter of hours**.....they had gone from the heights of ministry -----to the depths

• **It's not hard to sympathize**.....**IN FACT**  
If you have been seeking to serve Jesus during this last 12 months.....  
Then I reckon....you can look back.....On times just like this

**Times** when its been so much hard work.....**that** seems so unproductive and frustrating  
**Periods** when you have found it hard just to keep on keeping on

• **But the encouraging truth** from this story is.....That Jesus saw them in their struggles  
**The** darkness and the distance could not prevent the Son of God.....being able to see them....understand

**That's true for us too**.....And it's a tremendous thought to carry with us into the new year

**And yet it seems.....that Jesus did not go to them straight away**

**He saw them straining.....And then.....**about the fourth watch →between 3.00 and 6.00am  
He went out to them.....walking on the lake

- **Instant delivery from tough times**.....is not always the way that Jesus works

**Despite** knowing what they were going through.....Jesus went ...when He knew the time was right  
And then He completely transformed the situation

**And the promise for each believer is the same**

Jesus as Almighty God always knows exactly what you are going through

**Just** because the frustration.....the suffering.....continues.....**IT** doesn't mean

**And you can be certain**.....that at the right time and in the right way....He will be.....

- **The other interesting thing**.....is that when He did come to them...they didn't recognize Him at 1<sup>st</sup>

**The appearance of Jesus** was from an unexpected place....unexpected time.....unexpected way

**Indeed they were terrified....thinking that they saw a ghost**

- **Jesus made an impact on them**....coming to them as he did.....which was His intention

**He did not come** close enough to be immediately recognized.....but made as though He would pass

**He could have made it a lot easier for them**.....But deliberately didn't....

**Because** He had something important....to teach them about Himself

- **So they saw Him as an apparition and cried out in fear**

Giving Him the opportunity to respond....with the words.....(As in Greek)

*“Be of good cheer, I AM; be you not afraid.”*

**He then got into the boat with them.....and the wind ceased.....**

And then we read: 51-52

*“They were completely amazed, for they had not understood about the loaves;  
their hearts were hardened.”*

**Their amazement was due to the fact**.....that they had still not got the message...**The teaching about**

They had missed it when **He broke** the bread.....despite the fact.....so involved

**They missed it now**.....**And Mark** says:→ It was because their hearts were hardened

**And he could have added**.....because their eyes and ears were both closed.....

**You see the message**.....He was seeking to reveal to His chosen....**was**  
**That He was not just a great man**.....who would make a good earthly king  
**HE WAS GOD.....HE WAS DIVINE.....HE WAS ALMIGHTY**

- **Jesus walked upon the waves** ....and in the OT Job had said of God  
Job 9:8      *“He alone stretches out the heavens and treads on the waves of the sea.”*

And in v10-11 *“He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, (Like feeding 5,000) miracles that cannot be counted. When He passes me, I cannot see Him; when He goes by, I cannot perceive Him.”*

- **It was God who had given manna....through Moses**  
**It was Jesus who had fed the 5,000.....because he was God**
- **And now Jesus stands before them**....on the top of the waves.....**and says**  
**Don't be afraid.....I AM.....The Greek** equivalent of the Special and Personal Name of God  
A revelation matched by His action of walking on the water

**they welcomed Him into their boat with amazement**  
**But** not with the recognition and reverence....**that He** as Almighty God.....deserved

**Yet Jesus** did not rebuke them for that.....**He knew** that for them.....the understanding would come later

**But for us...the situation is very diff**.....For we know that this Jesus is Almighty God  
**That**....as we recalled last Tuesday.....**He did** open the door into our world and come to save us  
**To enter** into the boat which is my life.....**And be** constantly with us  
Empowering and enabling us

**So how do we treat Him.....how do we see Him**

**We believe in Him**....We claim Him as **Saviour**.....**But do** we treat Him with reverence and fear  
As Almighty God

- **In His mercy He calls** me friend and brother.....**But** that doesn't lessen His standing in the universe  
**It hypocritical to sing ardent love songs to Jesus**.....and then not treat Him as King of Kings

**To offer Him a** life that is not pursuing holiness.....**An offering that** is not sacrificial.....  
**A ministry** that costs little.....**A commitment** that does not put Him first

**This story gives us who are believers**.....a great deal of encouragement....as we stand on the brink  
**But it** also calls us to rethink.....the way we act towards Jesus

**Amazement is not enough**.....**Love and gratitude** by themselves are not enough  
**He wants from us**.....in our daily Christian walk.....**a response** that is fitting for One  
WHO IS: Lord of Lords.....King of Kings.....And the Coming Ruler

**A response based on love.....but also gives Him the respect Obedience**  
**Reserved for the Holy One of God**