

Mark 6:45-56
Under His Feet

How Flexible are you? – Not talking limber – not asking if you can do the splits or not – Aaron – Toe

A) I am asking How do you respond when Your plan gets interrupted?

Aa) It used to drive me crazy: First hired by CCV as a Youth Pastor – Gaylord Day planner

B) Every year I would get a new one from him

1) I became a day planner kind of guy!

C) Learned – Ministry & life in general often can't be kept thru a day planner! – THINGS CHANGE

1) Life gets interrupted!

D) Being organized is good, but: Blessed are ..flexible

We see an example of that in Mark 6 – Jesus has quite a day.

A) Starts with hearing the news that His cousin and ministry partner – John the Baptist has been beheaded by Herod.

B) Matthew's gospel says that Jesus wanted to retreat to a quiet place alone.

C) But at the same time – His disciples are returning from their missions trip – Jesus has to pick them up at the airport.

D) He needs to be excited about – their trip and the things God has done.

E) Jesus meets up with His disciples, tells them the news – says – let's get away for a while – ALONE

1) Boat -

CROWD FOLLOWS – ARRIVE ON THE OTHER SIDE – 10-15 THOUSAND PP THERE.

A) Talk about a wild day: - A Day filled with extreme emotions and extreme demands.

Intense sorrow: the death of John

Immeasurable joy: His disciples are back rejoicing

Insensitive interruptions – he sought rest & got people.

Immense pressure – everyone wanting a piece of Him

B) Jesus doesn't break but He bends!

C) Saw in our study last time where Jesus looks at the multitude w/ compassion, like sheep without a shepherd –

D) Multiplies 5 loaves and two fish – feeds the crowd Until gluttoned – stuff

E) Enough of food that went untouched – that each Disciple gets his own basket.

After that you would expect Jesus to **retire for the day!** – **“God bless you all, I am calling it a day.”**

A) He would have the Disciples dismiss the crowd – I am out of here.

B) That is not what Jesus does.

45 Immediately He made His disciples get into the boat and go {before Him} to the other side, to Bethsaida, while He sent the multitude away.

A) Oh I don't like this – after a long day of ministry – I want to REST – I WANT TO EAT!

B) I don't want to lock up the building – make sure everyone is taken care of.

C) But Jesus is the perfect shepherd.

Jesus puts His disciples in a boat – sends them across the sea. {He made them} reluctant

A) Remember the crowd is gluttoned – They are too stuffed to follow again on foot – plus it is getting late.

B) So Jesus found a Hilton Hotel and spa and went for some R&R – Finally some alone time!

1) Or He went home and took a nap

C) Nope - **46 And when He had sent them away, He departed to the mountain to pray.**

D) Jesus, you are killing me here. –

See, most of us in ministry are good about praying before Ministry.

A) Our Pastors Pray every Sunday 7:30- You are welcome to join us – family room.

B) Jesus prays after – Which is a really smart thing to do. –

1) Listen - Sunday school teacher – home group leader. Mens group - Dad doing family devos

C) We all usually pray before hand. And maybe your prayers are like mine sometimes

1) **“Lord if you don't breathe life – we are done. There is no point.”**

D) Good example – Pray afterwards – **“Lord let it sink in – Lord do Your work – bind the enemy.”**

1) **“Let it be seed that falls on good soil.”**

E) Jesus goes to a mt alone to pray!

What happens next is AMAZING!

47 Now when evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea; and He was alone on the land. 48 Then He saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them. Now about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea, and would have passed them

by. 49 And when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed it was a ghost, and cried out; 50 for they all saw Him and were troubled.

But immediately He talked with them and said to them, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

51 Then He went up into the boat to them, and the wind ceased. And they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marveled. 52 For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened.

53 When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret and anchored there. 54 And when they came out of the boat, immediately the people recognized Him, 55 ran through that whole surrounding region, and began to carry about on beds those who were sick to wherever they heard He was. 56 Wherever He entered, into villages, cities, or the country, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged Him that they might just touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched Him were made well.

Here we are given the account of that famous story of Jesus walking on the water!

A) Several lessons for us about the storms that we can find ourselves in.

Note several things:

#1 Jesus sent them!

A) They start their way across the lake – John's gospel tells us they make it half way – 3 1/2 miles

B) Wind turn contrary – they have to put the sails down and begin rowing –

1) But they are not getting anywhere **v.48 straining**

C) **Note this:** The Disciples are walking in complete obedience and they end up in a storm.

D) That is not supposed to happen, right?

1) Walking in obedience to Jesus everything is supposed to go smoothly. – Not storms

Isn't that what the guys on TV say all the time- Walk in obedience – have enough faith –

A) "Your life will be full of blessing- Happy healthy – no problems, no storms.

B) And yet we see the opposite throughout the Bible.

Children of Israel have left Egypt – they are in perfect obedience – believing God – take them to the Promised land

A) No sooner are they out of Egypt – they run into a jam.

B) Boxed in at the Red Sea – they are trapped

1) **Mt Pihirah / MT Migdol / Back Red Sea**

C) They do what we so often do – Start complaining – Moses – what are you doing – brought us here to die!

D) **But God will do that at times** – Allow us and even send us at times into circumstances where we are over our heads!

E) So #1 Jesus sent them ...ended up in a Storm
#2 Jesus saw them!

A) Now whether that means he was sitting at a vantage point where he could see them or he saw them in prayer – I don't know –

B) But in our case it is both. - Jesus is our high Priest who ever lives to intercede for us Hebrews 7:25

C) But He is also sitting at a vantage point – **RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER** - where He can see us.

D) **LISTEN:** Nothing happens to us by surprise. Jesus is never – how did that happen?

Now that happens to us all the time!

A) Storms always seem to take us by surprise.

B) As a Pastor – **I can wake up to a barrage of text messages** – My husband just left me.

1) My child is in the hospital

C) Please pray the storm just hit

D) Storms are those things that interrupt our lives and often can come out of no where.

E) **That is our vantage point** – Surprises us – but Jesus is never taken by surprise.

So why does our loving Savior allow us to go through storms?

James says James 1:2,3

2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience

Storms produce something: Build spiritual Patience and character.

1 Peter 1:6-8

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love.

Storms **reveal the genuineness** of our faith – Gold .. Part of the purifying process

One of Paul's storms – a thorn in the flesh – plagued him – Prayed, Lord take it away

2 Corinthians 12:9

"My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness."

It is in the storms that we discover the sufficiency of God's grace = MORE THAN ENOUGH!

His grace sees us through – His grace enables us to keep going – keep moving !

If you are in a storm today – KNOW THIS – Not by accident – didn't take Jesus by surprise.

A) He sees you in the storm – He is with you in the storm and He will see you through the Storm.

B) #3 Jesus delayed His Rescue!

C) V.47 tells us that when evening came: **talking probably 6 or 7 o'clock – at night.**

D) Matthew's gospel says that Jesus waited until the 4th watch of the night which is after 3am, to come to them.

E) Talking 9 hrs – they are on the sea for 9 hrs – most of it in a storm –

Why did Jesus wait so long?

A) Why didn't He come to the rescue right away?

B) Is He being cruel ? Does He like to see His kids squirm?

C) I can think of a couple of reasons:

1) Several of the disciples were seasoned Seamen, Fishermen

D) Sea of Galilee was known for storms that could come out of no where.

1) Break between the mts – Wind shoot – funnel

The seamen in the group were used to battling these type of storms.

A) Jesus perhaps waited until they had exhausted all of their human effort.

B) Sometimes the Lord will do that with us – Especially if you are a fighter.

1) Storm comes – you buckle down – pull yourself up by the boot straps – **MAKE IT THROUGH**

C) They were in a situation that they were completely familiar with that was becoming unmanageable.

D) Sometimes the Lord waits until we come to the end of ourselves.

1) **“When a man comes to the end of himself, he comes to the beginning of God.”**

Another reason why Jesus might have delayed His rescue was to allow these men to develop their spiritual muscles. God is a SMART PARENT

A) In Mark 4 we saw them in a storm – **where they panicked** – Jesus was sleeping – Lord don't you care

B) Jesus rebuked the wind and the waves – and then He rebuked the disciples for their lack of faith.

C) So perhaps this time – He delayed to let them work through their faith a little.

I can see some of the disciples – suggesting – let's turn around and go back. – CUT AND RUN!!!

A) The others saying – No, Jesus told us to cross over – so we need to cross over -

B) V. 48 says they were straining at Rowing – Heave – Hull – Heave – Hull – Hang in there.

C) Jesus perhaps watches as they are building their spiritual muscles – He sent us – we are in His will

1) Let's just keep pressing forward

We do the same thing with our kids –

A) We want them to grow up – develop – they fall down – not racing to pick them up.

B) Let them struggle a little – Only way they are going to grow.

C) Only way they will develop their muscles – and learn to walk or swim or whatever.

1) If we come immediately – FOREVER PANSIES

When I was a kid – bigger – tall for my age – but most of the kids in my neighborhood – a few years older – picked on a lot.

A) One day: Squared off – Parents – chicken fight Grew up in Santa Ana ok – Rough there { bets

B) My dad says - fight him or fight me. {one shot God wants us to grow up!

A) If Storms are always wiping you out – ready to throw in the towel – cut and run { Not learning

B) He wants us to learn how to put on the armor of God and stand and fight and battle.

#4 Jesus came to them!

A) When the timing was right – Jesus came to them WALKING ON THE SEA!

B) The storm became an opportunity for them to see His power over the storm.

C) Here is what they discovered – “The waves that were over their heads, were under His feet!”

D) Their storm was His sidewalk – like one of those people movers at the airport – got him there quicker!

That is the way that it always is the storm that is over your head – didn't take Him by surprise and in reality it is UNDER HIS FEET! – Tim Keller quote

A) Notice v. 50 Jesus says to them **"Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."**

"Jesus prompts His disciples to see that the critical factor in their faith is not its strength, but its object." T. Keller

B) This intrigues me. He didn't say, "It is I. Be of good cheer."

1) He said, **"Be of good cheer. It is I." First,**

C) In other words the exhortation to "Be of good cheer" came before the Revelation that it was Him!

D) Application for our lives here: Scripture says 2 Thessalonians 5:16–18 **"In everything we are to give thanks, to rejoice evermore, for this is the will of God."**

E) **Philippians 4:6-7**

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Here is what we do- we say I will rejoice once I know the Lord is with me.

A) I will stop being anxious once I sense His peace and presence.

B) He says – *No, walk by faith in the promise that I have declared I will never leave you nor forsake you.*

C) **You rejoice – You pray with thanksgiving – and watch how I reveal Myself to you.**

D) **Watch how My peace comes over you – A peace that surpasses understanding –
1) A peace that guards your heart and mind.**

Timothy Keller quote

"Next time fear and anxiety fill your heart, don't freak out—faith out. Rejoice and watch how He reveals Himself to you." Jon Courson

A) Now Matthew's gospel tells us that at this moment Peter blurts out – Lord if it is really You tell me to get out of the boat and come to You.

B) **Never understood the logic here – V.49 says they thought it was a ghost – Phantasam – Phantom**

C) **Couldn't the Phantom say – come ?**

Also interesting that Mark leaves this out – since Mark is really Peter's account.

A) Was Peter being modest – you don't need to put that part in there.

B) Or was he embarrassed – because Matthew tells us Peter did get out of the boat and walk on water at least a few feet

C)But **he took his eyes off of Jesus** and focused on the wind and the waves – and began to sink.

D)There is a another whole Bible study there – but let me just say this: One thing we learn from Peter is this:

In the storm – Keep your eyes on Jesus **not** the wind and the waves.

**One last thing: We Learn from the storms
#5 Storms provide an opportunity to see God's glory!**

51 Then He went up into the boat to them, and the wind ceased. And they were *greatly amazed* in themselves beyond measure, and *marveled*. 52 For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened.

Interesting: Mark says the disciples were still not fully understanding the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000

A)But when this happens – they are amazed – and they marveled.

B)Matthew adds - Matthew 14:33

“Then those who were in the boat came and worshipped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

B)After the storm they worshipped! Here is what is interesting – they had never worshipped Him before as a group.

C) **Search the gospel records** – you won't find a time where that took place amongst the disciples

1) Not when He heals the leper

2)Not Forgives the woman caught in adultery

3) Not Raises Lazarus from the dead.

4) Not when He Fed 5,000

D) But it happens here – When He rescues them

Max Lucado: “When you recognize God as the Creator, you will admire Him. When you discover His strength, you will rely on Him. But when He saves you, then you worship Him.”

E) When He rescues you – no longer content to keep Him at a distance!

The natural reaction when God comes through is to worship Him –

A)We need to learn to worship Him in the storm

B)When God opened up the red sea – Israel worshipped the other side –

1)Moses wrote a Song – **they did a dance**

C)How much greater – would it had been if they worshipped on the other side – before the miracle

Remember Acts 16 Paul and Silas in Prison in Phillipi –dark dingy Midnight – they start to worship

A) Praising God not for the storm – the trial – but in the midst of it.

B) **Something radical happened** – Prison doors opened miraculously

1) And when the **jailor woke up** and seeing the doors opened – was going to kill himself –

C) **Held responsible if prisoners escaped** - Paul called out – Don't kill yourself – we are all still here.

D) **In other words it no longer mattered to Paul and Silas – the objective was No longer to get out of prison**

1) **THE OBJECTIVE WAS TO ENJOY THE LORD AND TO GIVE HIM PRAISE.**

E) They were **so caught up in the moment** that when the prison doors opened they didn't even think of leaving.

F) And neither did any of the other prisoners

1) Holy moment – A miraculous moment, When ?

When they worshipped in the midst of the storm!

But how can I be so sure that Jesus is going to come through for me ?

How do I know He is for me ? He is really with me?

THE CROSS

Romans 8:32-

“He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”

Romans 8:37

“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”