

LESSONS FROM THE STORM

MARK 6:45-56

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⁴⁵ Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶ And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray. ⁴⁷ And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. ⁴⁸ And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them, ⁴⁹ but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, ⁵⁰ for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.” ⁵¹ And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, ⁵² for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened. ⁵³ When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored to the shore. ⁵⁴ And when they got out of the boat, the people immediately recognized him ⁵⁵ and ran about the whole region and began to bring the sick people on their beds to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶ And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and implored him that they might touch even the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are for further study and application of today's text of Scripture. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. One of the best ways to grow as a disciple is by discussing these types of questions in a small group. Find a small group here: gracebiblecw.com/lifegroup or ask someone next to you if you can join their group!

1. What are some of the lessons that God teaches us through the hard work of serving others? Is this an area you think you need to grow in this year? If yes, what do you think that might look like?
2. Do you go to the Father before you need help, when you need help, or after you have exhausted all other means of getting help? Jesus wants you to come to him with the problem and to allow him to lead you through it. If this is an area you'd like to grow in, what are some ways or ideas to help you to do better in this area?
3. Regardless of whether you feel like you are winning in life, struggling in life, or maybe even losing in life, are you taking time to retreat and reconnect with the Father? It's a simple lesson that Jesus modeled throughout his ministry and there really isn't any other way forward in terms of growing in spiritual maturity and effectiveness for the Lord. What are some ways you can grow in this area this year?
4. Do you only tackle problems or accept challenges that you know you can solve and that you know should be doable? If so, how would Jesus be able to get involved in your plans in such a way so as to show you that he cares about you and wants you to learn to depend on him, not yourself or any other idol that you normally depend on?
5. When you think of Jesus, the King, the Shepherd, the Messiah (Savior) for all those who would follow him since the creation of the world, do you think of him in all his grandeur and glory, or do you think of him more practically, almost like your Swiss army knife to pull out when you need to get yourself out of a jam?
6. **Bonus Prophesy:** Read Job 9:8, and read Psalm 107:1-4, 23-32. Do you see any parallels to the story we read today? What do you think the disciples might have said to each other a day or two later when they remembered these verses?