

Wheelersburg Baptist Church 10/16/2022
Mark 6:45-56 “The One Who Walks on Water”^{**1}
Series: “*Mark: The Servant in Action*”

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Main Idea: There is something very special about Jesus, *very* special. He can do what no one else can do and consequently deserves what no one else deserves from us. In Mark 6:45-56 He demonstrated His complete authority over three realms.

- I. We see His authority over people (45-46).
 - A. He sent the disciples away.
 - B. He sent the crowd away.
 1. They wanted to make Him king.
 2. He chose to please His Father, not them.
 - C. He went to pray.
 - II. We see His authority over nature (47-52).
 - A. He can see what no one else can see (47-48a).
 - B. He can do what no one else can do (48b).
 - C. He can get our attention like no one else can get our attention (49-50a).
 - D. He can comfort like no one else can comfort (50b-52).
 1. We're in trouble when we don't apply what we learn.
 2. We're in trouble when our hearts are hard.
 - III. We see His authority over disease (53-56).
 - A. People brought the sick to Him (53-55).
 - B. When the sick touched Him, they were healed (56).
 1. This happened everywhere.
 2. This happened to everyone.
- Implications: If Jesus really walked on water...
1. You can be sure He sees you today.
 2. You can be sure He can change your life today.
 3. You can be sure you need Him today.

There are many credentials that put Jesus Christ in a class all by Himself, and worthy of our worship. We're seeing them again and again as we journey through Mark's gospel on Sundays. This morning, we're coming to one that's quite breath-taking frankly. In today's text we're going to behold *the One who walks on water*.

Scripture Reading: Mark 6:45-56

Do you recognize any of these names: Owen D. Young, Pierre Laval, Hugh S. Johnson, James F. Byrnes, Mohammed Mossadegh, Harlow Curtis? You should, at least according to *Time* magazine, for these are all people who at one time were designated as "Man of the Year" by *Time*. That indicates there was a time when these folks were considered by some to have had the greatest impact in that year of all persons living on earth. Isn't it interesting how the celebrity of today is often all but forgotten tomorrow?²

But Jesus is different. Why? Why are we still talking about Him two thousand years after He lived? What makes Him not only a great person, but the greatest person who ever walked on this planet? Simply put, it's because He did what no one else has ever done.

“Like what?” you ask. Many things, for sure. When you read the story of His life, you discover, for starters, that He gave sight to the blind, fed five thousand with a sack

^{**}Note: This is an unedited manuscript of a message preached at Wheelersburg Baptist Church. It is provided to prompt your continued reflection on the practical truths of the Word of God.

¹ For a previous look at this passage, see the Mark series in 2004.

² [Unknown](#).

lunch, and even raised the dead! Who else has ever done that? And then, there's the compelling credential that we're considering today.

He walked on water. For hundreds of yards, no less.³ And it wasn't frozen water either. The Lord Jesus actually walked out onto a lake, and moved across it as if He were traveling down a dirt road. Who else can do that?

Indeed, there is something very special about Jesus, *very* special. He can do what no one else can do, and consequently deserves what no one else deserves from us. Our absolute trust, devotion, and worship. In Mark 6:45-56 we see the Lord Jesus demonstrating His complete authority over three realms.

I. We see His authority over people (45-46).

The context of our story is, as always, important. We're in Mark 6, and in the first part of this chapter Jesus went to His hometown of Nazareth. Following a cool response, He sent out the Twelve two by two for ministry throughout Galilee. The result was an explosion of popularity, with so many people coming to see Jesus that He and His men had no time even to eat. Jesus suggested a get-away, so He and the apostles got into a boat and headed for Bethsaida for some r & r. But the crowds ran ahead and were waiting when they arrived. Jesus had compassion on them, and taught them the rest of the day. He even fed the multitude of 5,000 men (plus women and children) by miraculously multiplying a boy's lunch of five barley loaves and two fish. As a result, everybody ate until they were thoroughly satisfied.

At this point Jesus did three strange things, strange to us that is, and they each illustrate His inherent authority over people.

A. He sent the disciples away. Verse 45 says, "Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd." Please note that the Lord didn't ask His disciples for their opinion in the matter. Mark says He *made* them leave, telling them He would join them later.

Why did He stay behind? To dismiss the crowd. Why didn't He allow the disciples to participate in the crowd's send off? We'll discuss that momentarily. For now, please note that Jesus sent them. He directed them to go, and as we'll see shortly, He directed them *right into another hazard*. They faced a hazardous wind-storm *because* they obeyed God. It was His will. Some of our life-challenges are self-inflicted, but some of them aren't. In all occasions, if we face a storm it's because the Sovereign Lord purposed it.

B. He sent the crowd away. Verse 45 concludes, "While He dismissed the crowd."

That action raises the question, *why*? Why did Jesus send the disciples and crowd away? Mark doesn't tell us, but in his parallel account John does. John 6:15 states, "Jesus, knowing that they [the crowd] intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself." There's the reason for the sudden move...

1. They wanted to make Him king. After seeing Jesus turn five loaves and two fish into a banquet for 15,000 people, the crowd stirred into a frenzy.

"Let's make Him our king!" they began exclaiming to one another. "If this Miracle-Worker can do that with five loaves and two fish, just imagine what He could do with our depressed economy! And the Romans! Finally, here's the solution to those wicked

³ According to Matthew 14:24, the boat was "many stadia" away from the land. A stadia is about 600 feet.

Romans! What could be better than a leader who can turn sack lunches into hillside banquets? There's no question about it. We want Him to be our king!"

But that's the last thing Jesus had in mind at this point. Oh, He is the king, for sure. But not that kind of king. Not a king who merely succumbs to the wishes of sinful people. No, this King is already on mission. He has come to rescue sinners, not satisfy their greed. He has eternal life in mind, not merely a better life now.

And so, first, He sent the disciples away. Then He sent the crowd home. Barclay explains, "He did not want his disciples to be infected and caught up in this nationalistic outburst. Galilee was the hotbed of revolution. If this movement was not checked, there might well emerge amongst the excitable people a rebellion which would wreck everything and lead to disaster for all concerned."⁴

I get the sense the disciples didn't want to go. Jesus *made* them get into the boat and leave. It made no sense to these men. Here were thousands of people gathered before Jesus. He had them eating out of His hands, *literally*. This crowd is ready to do whatever Jesus asks. Leave now? No way.

Yes way, says Jesus. You are leaving now. And why? Here's the bottom line...

2. *He chose to please His Father, not them.* Jesus loved people, but didn't live to please them.

Answer this. While on earth, when was Jesus tempted? We tend to think of the forty days and nights in the wilderness as being His time of temptation, and it was. But the Lord faced temptation His entire incarnation. Here in Mark 6 we see the tempter again. No, he's not mentioned by name in the text, but he's at work.

Listen to him: "Jesus, you can be king right now if you want to." The devil, through the crowd, is offering Jesus a short cut to the power, as Jones puts it, "a short cut that would avoid the garden and the cross; that was the bait Satan held out before the mind of Jesus."⁵

It's essentially the same temptation the devil offered earlier when he took Jesus to a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and said in Matthew 4:9, "All this I will give you if you will bow down and worship me." And on that occasion Jesus responded, "Away from Me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only (Matt 4:10).'"

How did Jesus respond this time? By doing something very intentional.

C. He went to pray. Verse 46 says, "And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray."

Perhaps you're wondering what He prayed about on that mountain. Here's a clue. There are only three times in Mark's gospel where we see Jesus withdrawing to pray, and each time involved a crisis. The first? After He healed many people and a crowd gathered in Capernaum (1:35). The second, right here in Mark 6. And the third, right after the Lord's Supper, when He went to Gethsemane (14:32-36). In each of these incidents, Jesus faced the same challenge, the temptation not to carry out the mission His Father had given Him.⁶

Think again of the problems Jesus is facing in Mark 6. The orthodox Jews are looking for a way to kill Him (3:6). Herod Antipas, the man who killed John the Baptist,

⁴ Barclay, p. 160.

⁵ J. D. Jones, p. 205.

⁶ Observation by Wessel, p. 675.

is insanely suspicious of Him (6:14). And most recently, a multitude of Jews with a are trying to force Him to be king against His will.

Where do you go when you're facing pressures *not* to do what God wants you to do with your life? Jesus went to His Father. There on that mountainside He spent hours seeking His Father's face, and when He left that mountain, He was re-energized to obey His Father's will. While the crowd was thinking of a throne, He walked down that slope thinking of a cross.

Friends, the message of the cross is offensive, even repulsive. Who wants a bloody, despised Messiah? The Triune God does. It's why the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit put the cross at the center of their redemptive plan, for it's the cross that puts God's wisdom, mercy, grace, love, and power, on display.

In the prophecy of Isaiah 53:10 we're told, "It was the will of the LORD to crush him." The KJV says, "Yes it pleased the LORD to bruise him." Pleased Him? The horrendous abuse of His own Son *pleased* Him? Yes. The Father purposed it to happen.

And so did the Son. No one forced His hand. Remember the scene in Gethsemane when the soldiers came and Peter pulled out a sword? Do you remember the question Jesus asked? This one, recorded in John 18:11, "Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"

The offensive cross brings pleasure to the Father. And to the Son, as well. No, God is not a masochist. He doesn't love the abuse and pain that occurred on the cross. But He delights in what comes out of it.

Right after the encounter we're considering in Mark 6, Jesus preached to another crowd and said in John 6:51. "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

Don't miss that. Why did He come? He told the people He had come from heaven to become as food for starving people. And how would He serve this meal? By dying a horrendous death for them.

Those words had a sobering effect on the crowd. When the people heard Jesus talking about dying, they actually grumbled and were offended. John 6:66 records, "From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him."

Why would a Jesus follower leave Jesus? Because not all who follow Jesus are following Him where He intends to take them. And where is that? To the cross, first His, and then their own.

It's true. Sinners resist the message of the cross. It's repulsive to them. And why is that? Because apart from a Holy Spirit produced heart change, a sinner refuses to admit how great his or her sin problem is.

"I'm just not that bad. I'm a good person," insists the sinner. "I don't need the cross."

But Jesus says we do. He insists that we need more than for Him to heal our bodies and put food on our tables. We need Him to save us. And this is the very reason He refused to follow the crowd, and continued His journey to the cross.

The question this morning is, do you agree with Jesus? Do you agree that *you* need a Savior, and specifically, what He the Savior accomplished on the cross? Have you ever said, as did the hymn-writer...

Alas and did my Savior bleed, and did my Sovereign die?

Would He devote that sacred head for such a worm as I?

*Was it for crimes that I have done, he groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! Grace unknown! And love beyond degree!*

Here's the first credential that puts Jesus in a call all by Himself. We see His authority over people.

II. We see His authority over nature (47-52).

The story we're about to consider is, like last week's feeding of the 5,000, another familiar one. Having heard it, who can forget the account of Jesus walking on the water? But as is true of everything He did, Jesus' actions teach us about Himself. In this case, His actions illustrate for us four qualities that set Jesus apart from everyone else.

A. He can see what no one else can see (47-48a). Notice verses 47-48a, "And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them."⁷

You may recall the storm back in Mark 4, the one where Jesus was sleeping in the boat while the disciples were straining to keep the ship afloat. The storm in Mark 4 was a wild tempest. This one is different, not so much a storm as a strong and continuous head wind that made for back-breaking rowing for the disciples.

Matthew says the boat was "many stadia" away from the land (Matt 14:24), with a stadion being 600 feet. He also says the boat was being "battered" (lit. 'tormented') by the waves.

And what's Jesus doing? I love this. Mark says that although Jesus was up on the mountain and the disciples were out on the boat, Jesus *saw* the disciples. In fact, He saw them fighting the battle with the wind and waves.

Let's remember the reason the disciples are in this frustrating moment. *Jesus sent them into it.* You say, "Why would He do that?" For the same reason that, at times, He sends us into trying situations. He wants *to teach us* and *mature us*.

Coaches understand this methodology. I saw a feature on a basketball coach once who used an innovative tactic. He had his team wear football pads and helmets in *basketball practice!* His objective was to make practice harder, not to hurt his team, but to prepare them to play the game better, especially against aggressive teams.

Here is a great truth, my friend. Even when we can't see Jesus, He sees us. He sees you right now. He knows what you are facing. He can see what no one else can see.

B. He can do what no one else can do (48b). Verse 48b says, "And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea..."

The fourth watch begins at 3:00 a.m. and lasts until 6:00 a.m. This means a period of nine to twelve hours has passed since Jesus has been with the disciples. He left them at about 6:00 p.m. (Mark says it was "evening") and now rejoins them in the fourth watch of the night (again, that's between 3 and 6 a.m.). During their time apart He has been praying, and they have been fighting the wind.

So Jesus has His own problems, but when He sees His men in trouble He sets aside His problems and goes to them. He stops praying and moves into action.

Hear the words again. *He came to them.* And how did He get there? By boat? No. By swimming? No. *He came to them, walking on the sea.* For the first time in the history of civilization a person walked on water, and it wasn't a stunt. Who can do such a thing?! Only one.

⁷ John says specifically they were heading to Capernaum (6:17).

Verse 48 concludes, “He meant to pass by them.” The NIV says, “He was about to pass by them...” The KJV says, “and would have passed by them.” Why Jesus did this, Mark doesn’t tell us. “Maybe it was foggy and He couldn’t see them,” someone might suggest. No, if you can walk on water you, you don’t get lost in fog.

As always, Jesus is teaching by His action. Who else walks on water? In the Old Testament, God does (Job 9:8; 38:16). Who else “passes by” someone in the Old Testament? God does (Exodus 33:19, 22). Remember Moses in the cleft of the rock?

Mark uses this language to show the Deity, the *Godness*, of Jesus of Nazareth. By this particular action, Jesus is showing these men who He is, God in human flesh.

We could also say He is testing the men, to see how well they really know Him. It’s one thing to say you know Jesus, but there’s nothing like yanking on oars all night in a wind-storm and then seeing someone walking on the water, to reveal how well you really know Jesus.

The Savior taught His disciples an important lesson that night. In a few months He would be leaving them altogether. He was going to die as their sin-bearer, then conquer the grave, and return to heaven. They would no longer go through life with Him as their daily companion. They would face temptations and difficulties *alone*. Or would they?

If He was merely a great man, the answer is yes. He’s dead and gone. But if He is truly God, then that changes everything.

This is a vital take-away for us, dear friends. There are times when we too will feel alone, straining at the oars, but we’re never alone, not if we belong to Jesus. He always has His eyes on His own. Though we can’t see Him, He sees us. And in His time and as He deems best, He will come to us with the help we need, precisely when we need it.

Oh beloved, let us ponder this carefully. Our eyes have never seen Him, our hands have never touched Him, but He is with us always. These were His parting words, His promise to His followers, “Lo, I am with you always, to the very end of the age (Matt 28:20).” We are safe in His keeping, always and forever.⁸

C. He can get our attention like no one else can get our attention (49-50a).

Notice verse 49, “But when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost.” John 6:19 indicates they had rowed about three or four miles by this time. The last person they expected to see at this moment was *Jesus*.

“Who or what is *that*?!” Verse 49 says they “cried out.”

Verse 50 tells why, “For they all saw him and were terrified.” Remember, these are *men*. Real men don’t struggle with fear, do they? Yes, they do. Everybody has his limit, and here’s something that will cause the knees of the bravest to buckle. It’s when the Lord intersects your life in ways that defy the laws of nature.

This is reality. The Lord can get our attention like no one else. Perhaps He’s doing that in your life right now. Thankfully...

D. He can comfort like no one else can comfort (50b-52). Notice verse 50, “But immediately he spoke to them and said, ‘Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.’”

Notice those words, “It is I.” Once again, it’s possible that Jesus is making another connection. Who else said those words? God did, the I Am, in Exodus 3:14. The I AM who spoke to Moses at the burning bush is now speaking to these frightened men, saying, “Take heart. I AM is with you.”

⁸ See J. D. Jones for a fuller development of this thought, pp. 208-9.

Do you want to see another powerful evidence of His deity? Look at verse 51. “And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased.” As soon as the Master’s leg swung over the side and He entered the boat, the wind stopped. Who can do that?! Who has that kind of power? There’s only one.

Perhaps you’re thinking, “I thought Peter walked on the water, too. How come that’s not in Mark’s account?”

Good question. According to Matthew 14, Peter did walk on water. Right after the disciples saw Jesus, Peter asked Jesus to allow him to get out of the boat and come to Him, which he did, and then started to sink when he started looking at the waves instead of the Lord. You’ll find that part of the story in Matthew 14, but not in Mark’s account.

Why not? Tradition says that Mark wrote this gospel as *Peter’s* spokesman. Perhaps in relating the story Peter didn’t want to give people the wrong impression, so he left out his personal involvement in the miracle. That’s possible.

This is more likely. It doesn’t fit Mark’s purpose. He doesn’t want us walking away from this story thinking about Peter, but whom? Jesus. And specifically, the stunning credentials of the God-man, Jesus Christ.

He concludes verse 51, “And they were utterly astounded.” In the NIV, “They were completely amazed.” And why were the Twelve astounded? Here’s why. According to verse 52, “For they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.”

Mark informs us that the disciples struggled that night for two not-so-obvious reasons. To put it plainly, they weren’t just battling the wind and waves that night. They were also battling two heart issues, the same two heart issues that get us into trouble.

1. *We’re in trouble when we don’t apply what we learn.* Mark says, “They had *not understood* about the loaves.” He’s talking about the five loaves that Jesus multiplied into a meal for 5,000 men the previous day. Not only had they seen that miracle but they participated in it, each of the Twelve getting on this boat with a basketful of leftovers. They *saw* the miracle, yes, but they didn’t *understand* it. In other words, they missed the point of it.

What is the point? This. If Jesus can feed 5,000 men with five loaves, defying the laws of nature, why would you be amazed if you saw Him walking on water? If you really understood His identity, you would expect the impossible. *If you understood*, that is.

But that was the disciples’ problem, as it is ours so often. They didn’t apply what they learned. They saw Him feed the 5,000, but they didn’t take it to heart.

2. *We’re in trouble when our hearts are hard.* Mark says the disciples were astounded because their “*hearts were hardened.*” Oh, they saw His works and heard His words, but they didn’t get it. They had a heart problem.

Tim Hansel tells this story in his book *Holy Sweat*: One day, while my son Zac and I were out in the country, climbing around in some cliffs, I heard a voice from above me yell, “Hey Dad! Catch me!” I turned around to see Zac joyfully jumping off a rock straight at me. He had jumped and then yelled “Hey Dad!” I became an instant circus act, catching him. We both fell to the ground. For a moment after I caught him I could hardly talk.

When I found my voice again I gasped in exasperation: “Zac! Can you give me one good reason why you did that???”

He responded with remarkable calmness: "Sure...because you're my Dad." His whole assurance was based in the fact that his father was trustworthy. He could live life to the hilt because I could be trusted. Isn't this even more true for a Christian?⁹

Make it personal, dear friend. If Jesus can multiply loaves and walk on water, it proves He's worthy of our total trust. But the question remains, *do we trust Him?* Are we trusting Him?

By the way, in case you need more evidence that He's a worthy object of our trust, consider this. In John's account, the apostle John indicates a second miracle occurred after Jesus entered the boat. Do you remember what it was? Listen to John 6:21, "Immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading." Not only can He stop the wind, but He came move a boat a mile in a fraction of a second, should He so choose!

That's what I call authority over nature. And Jesus has it! One more realm. He has authority over people, and over nature. Thirdly...

III. We see His authority over disease (53-56).

In the final scene of chapter six, two things happened...

A. People brought the sick to Him (53-55). Notice verses 53-55, "When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored to the shore. And when they got out of the boat, the people immediately recognized him⁵⁵ and ran about the whole region and began to bring the sick people on their beds to wherever they heard he was."

There's quite a contrast here, when compared with what happened at Nazareth at the beginning of the chapter. Mark 6:5-6 says that at Nazareth, "He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their lack of faith."

But at Gennesaret, they came. Oh, did they come! Indeed, they came bringing every sick person they could find. They even transported them on their beds. The result?

B. When the sick touched Him, they were healed (56). I mean, comprehensively and completely healed.

1. *This happened everywhere.* Verse 56 says, "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."

As an obedient Jew, Jesus wore the fringes and tassels commanded by God in Numbers 15:37-39 and Deuteronomy 22:12. And as He walked along, the people touched Him, and were healed. This happened everywhere He went. In addition...

2. *This happened to everyone.* Verse 56 concludes, "And all who touched him were healed." No exceptions. All who touched were healed. Such is the authority of Jesus the Christ.

By the way, why did the people come to Jesus? The short answer is, *to get something from Him.* In fact, some came with very self-centered notions.

John's account makes this quite clear. He says that on the day following the feeding of the five thousand, people from Tiberias got in boats and went looking for Jesus. When they couldn't find Him, they headed for Capernaum, seeking Jesus. Listen to the dialogue in John 6:25-29:

⁹ Tim Hansel, [Holy Sweat](#), 1987, Word Books Publisher, pp. 46-47.

“When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, ‘Rabbi, when did you get here?’ Jesus answered, ‘I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.’ Then they asked him, ‘What must we do to do the works God requires?’ Jesus answered, ‘The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.’”

The truth is, Jesus can give what no one else can give. He’s the source of forgiveness as well as life that is both abundant and eternal. It’s good to come to Jesus. But some people come to Him to get what they want, *and no more*. They basically *use* Jesus.

Have you ever eaten in a really nice restaurant, the kind that has the waiter in the black tux? Now that’s a treat. The head waiter approaches your table gracefully and says, “Welcome, sir, madam. It’s a pleasure to have you. It will be my delight to make your dining experience pleasurable. If you need *anything*, please do not hesitate to tell me. I am here for you.”

Sadly, that’s how some people view Jesus, as a cosmic head waiter. They may even recognize Jesus is unique, that He possesses all power and authority. But they have the notion that He has all this *for them*. He exists for me. If I have a need, He owes it to me to do what I want. Not so.

He who has authority over people, over nature, and over disease isn’t a cosmic waiter. He is the Lord who, loves us, yes, and deserves our total trust and allegiance.

Implications: If Jesus really walked on water...you can be sure of three things.

1. *You can be sure He sees you today.* Perhaps you feel as if the boat you’re in is heading into a stiff wind and you’re getting nowhere. Life is hard and seems out of control. I have good news for you. He sees you. Yes, He sees *you* right now.

2. *You can be sure He can change your life today.* The disciples saw Him and it looked like He was walking right past their boat. But He wasn’t. He’d come for this reason, to make Himself known to them. And when they cried out to Him, He calmed their fears, entered their boat, and silenced the stubborn winds. His presence changed everything instantly.

He will do the same for you today, if you’ll call on Him. No, He may not necessarily calm the raging wind, not yet anyway, but He will surely calm you. He will surely change your life today.

3. *You can be sure you need Him today.* We all do. Let’s turn to Him now.

Closing Song: #353 “A Shelter in the Time of Storm” (all four verses)

*The Lord’s our Rock, in Him we hide,
A Shelter in the time of storm;
Secure whatever ill betide,
A Shelter in the time of storm.*

*Oh, Jesus is a Rock in a weary land,
A weary land, a weary land;
Oh, Jesus is a Rock in a weary land,
A Shelter in the time of storm.*

Community Group Discussion:

1. The title of this morning's message from Mark 6:45-56 was, "*The One Who Walks on Water.*" After taking time as a group to re-read the passage, share some of the questions this account raises for you (and there are likely *many*). For instance... In verse 45, why did Jesus make the disciples get into the boat without Him? In verse 49, why did the disciples think they were seeing a ghost (did they believe in ghosts)? Other questions?
2. In verses 45-46 Jesus went up on a mountain to pray. What does that teach us about Jesus?
3. In verse 48 we're told that Jesus came to the disciples "walking on the sea". What does this teach us about our Savior? Mark also says that "He meant to pass by them." What does that teach us about Him?
4. After Jesus got into the boat and the wind ceased, Mark says that the disciples "were utterly astounded". What does that teach us about the Lord, and why is that important for us to know?
5. In verse 52, Mark indicates that there is a connection between Jesus' walking on the water and the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand. What is the connection, and why should it matter to us?
6. How does this passage encourage you? What are some take-aways that can help us this week?