

July 26, 2026 – Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group

" Still Treading the Waves: The Patience of Jesus in Our Storms"— Mark 6:45-56

1. In verse 48, Mark notes that Jesus intended to "pass by" the disciples on the water. How does this language echo God's self-revelation to Moses (Exodus 33:21–23) and Elijah (1 Kings 19:11–12), and what does it reveal about who is in the boat with them?
2. Verse 48 says Jesus saw them making headway painfully while He was on the mountain praying. How does the reality of Christ's continuous intercession for us (Hebrews 7:25) change how we view moments when God feels distant or silent in our storms?
3. The disciples were "straining at the oars" for hours before Jesus approached them. What are the warning signs in your own life that tell you you've shifted from trusting Christ to self-reliant "straining"?
4. Mark explicitly links their hardened hearts in the storm to their failure to understand the miracle of the loaves (v. 52). Why do we so easily compartmentalize God's past provisions, treating new trials as if He has never proved faithful before?
5. When the disciples first saw Jesus walking on the sea, they thought He was a ghost and cried out in fear (v. 49). In what ways do our anxieties cause us to misinterpret God's active, loving presence as a threat or judgment?
6. Jesus stepped into the sea, the future cross, and real storm of judgment so that we could enjoy His eternal peace. How does meditating on His willingness to enter our chaos break the power of fear and shame when we stumble or regress?
7. In verses 53–56, the moment they reach Gennesaret, Jesus immediately resumes healing everyone who touches the fringe of His garment—without rebuking the disciples for their lack of faith in the boat. The people in the crowd don't ask for teaching or to know more about Him. They only want to be healed. How does His instant, unmerited mercy demonstrate that His care for us is grounded in His character, not our performance?
8. When Jesus got into the boat, the wind ceased immediately (v. 51). What is one specific "oar" of control, anxiety, or striving that you get to lay down this week as an act of trust in His presence?

FILLED-IN ANSWERS TO THE SERMON OUTLINE

- I. **Jesus reveals His absolute deity and sovereign care by stepping into the chaotic storms of His followers, calling them to trust His self-revealed divine authority rather than regress into their own hardened perceptions.**
- II. **Our self-reliant hearts resist Christ's divine authority by exhausting ourselves in frantic self-effort during life's storms and seemingly regress to a time before we knew of past mercies in our lives.**
- III. **Jesus steps into our helpless plight, revealing Himself as the "I AM" who absorbed the ultimate storm of judgment so that His presence will rescue us from spiritual regression that doesn't depend on how tightly we hold the oars, but on His relentless commitment to hold onto us.**
- IV. **We respond to Christ's divine presence by choosing not to regress to self-reliance, but by bringing our hard hearts to Him for softening, and by reaching out in bold faith for His healing power in every storm.**