

Mk 6:45-56
Jesus Is God in Every Way
5/1/22

ILL: A **huge wave** threw a shipwrecked sailor on a rock. And, he clung there in terrible danger **until** the tide went out. Later, a friend asked him, "**Jim, didn't you tremble w/ terror when you were hanging on to that rock?**" And, the sailor answered, "**Oh yeah, you bet I did, but thank God the rock didn't!**"

RN: When life knocks us around like a ping-pong ball in a tsunami, isn't God strong enough to quiet our storm? Isn't He wise enough to guide us? Isn't He good enough to sustain us? Isn't He steady enough to protect us?

AN: Nothing big or small, strong or weak, alive or dead can limit God, b/c He is the source of all Strength, all Wisdom, all Goodness, and all Mercy.

BI: Jesus reveals His Divine Glory to prove that He is equal to God in every Providential way. **Please turn in your Bibles to Mk 6:45-56.**

- I. Today, we'll see where Jesus **sends** His **12**.
- II. And, we'll see why Jesus **reveals** His Divine Glory.
- III. Finally, we'll see how Jesus shows **limitless** Mercy and Compassion.

Jesus is God in every way. **[PRAY]**

(TRN) In (45-46), Jesus sends His **12** to a **safe** shore.

Mark 6:45-46 (NASB95) ⁴⁵ ***Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go ahead of [Him] to the other side to Bethsaida, while He Himself was sending the crowd away.*** ⁴⁶ ***After bidding them farewell, He left for the mountain to pray.***

(45) After Jesus feeds the **20,000**, He tells His **12** to immediately set sail for **Bethsaida**. **Jn 6:14-15** says that the Crowd wants to forcibly make Jesus their **Rome-hating** king.

A. So, Jesus moves His **12** out of harm's way as He dismisses the Crowd. But, Jesus may also be moving His **12**, s/t they won't succumb to the Crowd's fanaticism.

B. **Now, don't miss this:** Isn't it miraculous that **1** man, Jesus, can handle this electrified Crowd all by Himself? **READ THAT** Jesus is never the victim of circumstances, b/c His **Divinity** controls His circumstances.

(46) Jesus says goodbye to the Crowd and goes to a mountain to pray. Most likely, Jesus needs to recharge and refocus. Ministry is physically and emotionally draining.

A. Also, the **devil** may really be pounding Jesus w/ temptation or condemnation, b/c of how Jesus has glorified God. If the **devil** can't stop service, he'll try to stink it up.

B. But, the best guess is that Jesus needs some face time w/ His Father to stay focused on His mission to act as **the Christ** and not some Rome-hating revolutionary.

1. Jesus sees the injustice, too. But, God has a better way to liberate Israel. Jesus will set them free from their sins b/f He sets them free from their oppressors.

Isaiah 62:8–11 (NASB95) ⁸ *The LORD has sworn by His right hand and by His strong arm, "I will never again give your grain [as] food for your enemies; Nor will foreigners drink your new wine for which you have labored."* ⁹ *But those who garner it will eat it and praise the LORD; And those who gather it will drink it in the courts of My sanctuary.* ¹⁰ *Go through, go through the gates, Clear the way for the people; Build up, build up the highway, Remove the stones, lift up a standard over the peoples.* ¹¹ *Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth, say to the daughter of Zion, "Lo, your salvation comes; Behold His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him."*

3. IOW, when **the Christ** fully establishes His Kingdom on earth, God will destroy Israel's enemies once for all.

C. ILL: **D.L. Moody** was a popular evangelist from **Chicago**. And, he preached in **Great Britain** from **1873-1875**. Once, when he was on a trip across the **Atlantic**, a **fire** broke out in the hold of his ship. So, Moody and other volunteers helped the crew put it out. A friend said to Moody as they stood in the bucket line, "**Let's go up to the other end of the ship and pray.**" But, Moody said, "**No, sir, we will stand right here and pass the buckets and pray hard all the time that we're doing soⁱⁱ.**"

D. APPL: Sometimes, it seems that prayer and action are opposites. But, face time w/ our God keeps us focused on His purposes for us—**Trusting, Maturing, and Serving**.

We can **connect** w/ God, b/c Jesus is God in every way.

(TRN) In (47-52), Jesus reveals His Divine Glory on the Sea.

Mark 6:47–52 (NASB95) ⁴⁷ *When it was evening, the boat was in the middle of the sea, and [Jesus] was alone on the land.* ⁴⁸ *Seeing [His 12] straining at the oars, for the wind was against them, at about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea; and He intended to pass by them.* ⁴⁹

But when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed that it was a ghost, and cried out; ⁵⁰ for they all saw Him and were terrified. But immediately He spoke with them and said to them, "Take courage; it is I, do not be afraid."⁵¹ ***Then He got into the boat with them, and the wind stopped; and they were utterly astonished, ⁵² for they had not gained any insight from the [incident of] the loaves, but their heart was hardened.***

(47) Sets up the scene for us: At dusk, Jesus' **12** Apostles are way out in the **Sea of Galilee**, and Jesus is still praying all alone on the mountain.

(48) But, Mark fast-forwards the tape to the following morning to tell us some vital facts: First, as Jesus prays, He sees that His **12** are **stuck** in the Sea.

A. By now, it's b/t **3 AM** and **6 AM**, and the **12** aren't going anywhere, b/c no matter how hard they row, a strong **NE** wind pushes them back. And, they're beat.

B. What's more, seeing the trouble that His **12** are in, Jesus takes immediate action: He walks out to them **on** the choppy Sea. Jesus has a special reason for doing this.

C. Jesus will reveal a reassuring Truth about Himself to them. IOW, as Jesus passes into their view, by increments, He's will reveal His **Divine** ability to save them.

1. Jesus revealed this same Truth to **Moses**: **Exodus 33:19–23 (NASB95)** ¹⁹ ***And [God] said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion."*** ²⁰ ***But He said, "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!"*** ²¹ ***Then the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand [there] on the rock; ²² and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. ²³ "Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen."***

2. IOW, Jesus' walking on the water proves to His **12—plainly**—that He is God in the flesh, b/c only God can walk on the water.

a. [Job] **Job 9:8 (NASB95)** ⁸ ***[The LORD] alone stretches out the heavens and tramples down the waves of the sea—***

b. [Asaph] **Psalms 77:19 (NASB95)** ¹⁹ ***[Oh LORD,] Your way was in the sea and Your paths in the mighty waters, and Your footprints may not be known.***

c. [God] **Isaiah 43:16 (NASB95)** ¹⁶ ***Thus says the LORD Who makes a way through the sea and a path through the mighty waters—***

D. And as such, Jesus is ready, willing, and able to **save** His **12**, Israel, and the World.

(49-50a) The Apostles see Jesus walking on the water, and they freak out, b/c they think that it's all over—a **ghost**—is coming to drown them in the sea.

A. **Now, don't miss this:** Mark says that they **all** see Jesus. IOW, Jesus walking on the water isn't **1** man's hallucination—**12** sets of eyes are popping out of their sockets.

B. And as such, in the future, these **12** men less **1**, Judas, will risk their lives to tell this story all over the ancient world.

(50b-52) Jesus sees His **12** freaking out, so He immediately calms them down by identifying Himself. He says, **"Man up! I AM! Don't chicken out!"**

A. **Please note this:** When we translate, **"It's Me,"** into **Greek**, it becomes the equivalent of what God calls Himself in **Hebrew** when He reveals Himself to Moses.

Exodus 3:13–14 (NASB95) ¹³ *Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?"* ¹⁴ *God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"*

1. IOW, God is the eternal Being from Whom all other beings in the expanses of Heaven and in the domains of earth receive life.

B. Now, there are **3 decisive** lessons we can learn here: **1)** A Believer's courage isn't rooted in himself; it's rooted in Christ. IOW, when we're on His side, we get brave.

2) Christ can overcome **devils**, storms, and even death, b/c He is the **Great I AM**. IOW, we can get brave, b/c **devils**, storms, and death can't defeat our **Life Giver**.

3) We can choose to be brave. IOW, we can let fear rule us, or we can let Jesus Christ the **Great I AM** rule us. It's **our choice**; no one can make it for us.

C. Now, Jesus gets into the boat w/ His **12**, and the furious **NE** wind dies down to a whisper. And, His **12** are dumfounded, flabbergasted, and bowled over.

D. And, Mark tells us this **cautionary** Truth about their shock: Even after the feeding of the **20,000**, His **12** still don't get Who Jesus is, b/c their hearts are **hard**.

1. IOW, His **12** are so caught up in their narrow little worlds and their frantic personal agendas that they can't even see God in the flesh staring them in the face.

2. But, **mature** Faith doesn't happen overnight; it happens over time. In triumphs and tragedies, growth always comes down to **1** radical choice: Do we Trust God, or do we Doubt Him.

3. IOW, Faith is the **choice to cooperate** w/ God's Grace as He uses real-life situations to test us, mature us, strengthen us, purify us, and ennoble us.

E. Now, sometimes, it takes all that we've got to really mean it when we say, **"I Trust You, LORD!"**

1. But, when we do, Christ is formed in us more fully, and Faith sees more deeply into the eyes of God—and we experience the peace that passes understandingⁱⁱⁱ.

2. IOW, we see that God is **w/** us, He has a **plan**, He's in **control**, and **if** we submit to him, we'll be **OK—no matter what**.

F. ILL: Since **1890**, every **October 16th**, a curious service is held at **St. Catherine Church** on **Leadenhall Street in London**. On this date, the minister preaches what is traditionally called the **"Lion Sermon."** Here's the background—

Once a very pious man, named **Sir John Gair** lived in London. He was remarkably successful and at one time he had been **Lord Mayor of London**.

Now, earlier in his life, Gair was traveling in **Asia** w/ a desert caravan when he suddenly encountered a **Lion**. Gair's caravan had previously gone forward, so he was completely alone. Then, Gair knew that only God could deliver him.

At that traumatic moment, Gair thought of **Daniel** in the lions' den and of **Paul**, who met **Nero** who was as cruel as a Lion. So, Gair fell on his knees b/f the growling beast, shut his eyes, and begged God to **shut** the lion's mouth. When he finished praying, he opened his eyes. And, the Lion was **gone**.

Later, when Gair returned to London, he set aside a sum of money in trust for **2** purposes: **1)** to help the **poor** every **October 15th** and **2)** to guarantee that a sermon about his Divine deliverance would be preached every to every generation^{iv}.

G. APPL: Jesus guards us on all sides. He is before us (Is 48:17), He is behind us (Is 30:21). He is on our right (Ps 16:8). He is on our left (Job 23:9). He is above us (Ps. 36:7). He is underneath us (Dt 33:27). And, His Spirit is w/in us (I Cor 3:16). So, **if** we submit to him, we'll be OK—no matter what.

We'll be OK—no matter what, b/c Jesus is God in every way.

(TRN) In (53-56), Jesus shows infinite mercy and compassion.

Mark 6:53–56 (NASB95) ⁵³ *When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored to the shore.* ⁵⁴ *When they got out of the boat, immediately [the people] recognized Him,* ⁵⁵ *and ran about that whole*

country and began to carry here and there on their pallets those who were sick, to the place they heard He was.⁵⁶ Wherever He entered villages, or cities, or countryside, they were laying the sick in the marketplaces, and imploring Him that they might just touch the fringe of His cloak; and as many as touched it were being cured.

(53) The wind has blown their boat off course, so Jesus and His **12** land **8 miles SW** of Bethsaida at a fertile, populated region called **Gennesaret**. The rabbis call this beautiful area "**the Garden of God**" and "**a paradise.**"

A. Now, Jesus' **12** have been rubbing elbows w/ God in the flesh, and they haven't gotten it. But, in a symbolic sense, Jesus accepts their **imperfect** Faith and gets them where they've got to go anyhow, a place called **the Garden of God**.

1. IOW, Jesus gets us where we've got to go—not b/c of our perfection—but b/c of His Mercy. And, this symbolic Truth pictures the **means** of our greater Salvation.

2. **READ THAT** despite of all our hardheartedness, failures, and shortcomings, it's **Jesus Christ's** person and work of that **anchors** our souls in Paradise.

(54-56) The **Poor** immediately recognize Jesus. And, as He moves from village to village, the Poor carry their sick family and friends to Him on mats.

A. And, sometimes the Poor even crowd into the marketplaces, just so Jesus can heal them. And, they're constantly begging Jesus to just let them touch the border of blue tassels on His outer robe. And, when they do, they're **instantly** healed.

B. Now, Mark uses this report to sum up Jesus' ministry to date. But, this give-and-take b/t Jesus and the Crowd also reveals **3 fundamental** facts to us: **1)** Jesus is a loyal, observant **Jew**.

1. **Num 15:37-41** and **Dt 22:12** both order Jewish men to put **blue tassels** on their outer robes to remind them that they must keep God's Commandments. IOW, Jesus keeps the Law in **every detail** that God has ordered.

2) Jesus heals needy people, b/c He's honoring their flawed Faith, **not** b/c they're touching His robe. IOW, Jesus always honors active Faith in Him.

3) Day in and day out, w/ needy people press in on Jesus wherever He goes, and His Mercy never ends. IOW, Jesus constantly shows infinite Merciful and Compassionate.

C. **But, this question remains:** Will these needy people press on to deep Faith in Jesus once they've been healed, or will they tip their yarmulkes and say, "**So, Jesus, what else have you done for me lately?**"

1. And, this is the same question challenges us, too: When we come to Jesus and he meets our needs, will we press on to deeper Faith, or will we just call on Him when we need Him again?

2. If we give it all we've got and really mean it when we say, "**I trust You, LORD, no matter what,**" then we'll press on to Grace-filled wholeness and eternal reward.

3. But, if we don't, then all that remains are narrow little worlds and frantic personal agendas. *Here's why*—Faith is the **repeated choice** to trust in Jesus. No one can make it for us; nor should they.

D. ILL: Hurricane Mitch pummeled Central America in late October 1998. And, it left over **11,000 dead** in its wake. For **6** days, torrential rains flooded Honduras and left **1/6** of the country's population **homeless**.

Mike Haynes, a missionary serving in **La Ceiba, Honduras**, **risked** his life to fly his church's plane to safety at the beginning of the storm. But, Haynes and his wife **Karen** were among the **first relief workers** to help pick-up the pieces. Karen took in **14** of the homeless and **risked** her life walking in chest-deep water to get supplies.

Now, during one of Haynes' aerial **supply drops**, he turned on his airplane's **loudspeaker** and asked the people if they wanted to be remembered in **prayer**. If so, he asked them to find a **mirror** or some shiny object to **flash back** at him. All throughout **La Ceiba** the people were hurting. But, many kept on trusting the LORD, b/c He'd **save** their lives during the storm. So suddenly, the ground began to **sparkle** w/ lights flashing from every direction. Even though the people had **lost all** their possessions, they still **Trusted** in a compassionate God Who **answers** prayer^v.

E. APPL: Sometimes, Trusting in Jesus seems like an **impossibly** tall order. But, if we give it all that we've got, Jesus will honor our **imperfect** Faith and help us press on.

We can Trust in Jesus—no matter what, b/c Jesus is God in every way.

ⁱ Paul Lee Tan, *Encyclopedia of 770 Illustrations: A Treasury of Illustrations, Anecdotes, Facts and Quotations for Pastors, Teachers, and Christian Workers*. (Garland, TX: Bible communications, 1996, c1979).

ⁱⁱ "Pray During Everything," INFOsearch Pro ver 4.3P.

ⁱⁱⁱ Phil 4:7

^{iv} 2023 "The Lion Sermon," *Cut Gems*, Paul Lee Tan, [Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times](#) (Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc., 1996), 512.

^v "Signaling Toward the Heavens," INFOsearch Pro ver 4.3P.

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