

THAT YOU MAY KNOW

The Wave-Walker
John 6:16-21
May 15, 2022

MAIN POINT: While waves might rage against us because of our obedience, Jesus tramples the waves of this world and stills our hearts and comforts our souls in the midst.

I. THE SEA AND THE STORM (vv. 16-18)

- After compelling the disciples into the boat and out to the sea (Matt. 14:22; Mark 6:45), Jesus ascends the mountain to pray (cf. Matt. 14:23; Mark 6:46; John 6:15).
 - The disciples go down, down, down (vv. 16-17); unlike Jonah, though, whose disobedience led to the waves (Jon. 1), the obedience of the disciples resulted in their being caught in the storm.
- The strong wind (v. 19) provides the context for the disciples' deliverance, just as the strong east wind from the LORD brought deliverance for Israel (Exod. 14:21; cf. Ps. 77:16-20).

II. THE SCARE-STIRRING SAVIOR (v. 19)

- While Matthew and Mark report that the disciples thought Jesus was a phantom (Matt. 14:26; Mark 6:49), John leaves that detail out. It was the glory of the wave-walking Savior, the One who tramples the waves (cf. Job 9:8), that evokes fear (v. 19).
 - While Moses led the people of Israel through the waters of the Red Sea on dry ground (cf. Exod. 14:22; Ps. 77:19-20), the Greater Moses (who is Yahweh incarnate) meets his disciples by trampling the waves.

III. THE SAVIOR'S SPEECH (v. 20)

- For the second time in John's Gospel account, Jesus declares himself to be "I am" (cf. Exod. 3:14; John 4:26), and calls for fears to cease (cf. Isa. 43:1).
 - The presence of God the Son incarnate provokes both fear and comfort for those in the Son... but fear alone for those outside the Son (cf. Rev. 6:12-17).

IV. THE SAVIOR WHO SATISFIES (v. 21)

- Jesus' words produce a willing heart in the disciples, such that they take him into the boat and worship (cf. Matt. 14:33).
 - John doesn't tell us that the winds ceased and the waves stilled- Matthew and Mark do -but rather the boat immediately reached its destination.
 - It would seem that John agrees with Matthew and Mark by echoing both Psalm 107:27-32 and Isaiah 43:1-3a.

Suggested Reading:

Knowing Christ by Mark Jones

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read John 6:16-21

1. In what ways have you personally found yourself pummeled by the waves of this life as a result of your obedience to Jesus? What about for your disobedience to Jesus?
2. Jesus always lives to make intercession for us (Heb. 7:25). Although his presence may feel distant during the storms of this life, how does that truth inform our feelings? What kind of hope does the truth of Jesus' continual priestly intercession produce in your life?
3. When was the last time you were truly humbled and amazed by the awesomeness of God the Son incarnate; not by his work but by his person? Take some time on this one...
4. Discuss the ways John describes the divinity of God the Son in John 6:16-211, and then marvel at the fact that never ceasing to be what he was (i.e., divine), God the Son took on human nature for our salvation!
5. The disciples' fear of Jesus and Jesus' words of comfort resulted in their welcoming Jesus into the boat. How are we to understand the relationship between fearing the Lord and being satisfied in his presence?
6. John 6:16-21 records the fifth sign in John's Gospel account. What are the purposes of those signs (cf. John 20:30-31), and how does this particular sign accomplish that goal?