



## DIVE DEEPER

## READ Mark 6:45-52 (NIV)

45 Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. 46 After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray.

47 Later that night, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. 48 He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. Shortly before dawn he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, 49 but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, 50 because they all saw him and were terrified.

Immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." 51 Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, 52 for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened.

## JESUS SEPARATES HIMSELF:

› (V. 45, 46) **Immediately Jesus made.** The Greek (euthys ēnankasen) is unusually forceful, meaning that the disciples were "compelled posthaste" to depart the scene. They arrived at the place of the feeding of the five thousand with Jesus, but now, when darkness is close at hand or already upon them, he hustles them away alone.

¿ Jesus wants to be rid of the disciples so he can dismiss the crowd by himself. Why do you think he did that? This doesn't seem to match his character.

› (V. 48) **He saw them toiling in rowing.** The verb is basanizō (βασανίζω) "to torture," used in the passive, "to be harassed, distressed."

**The fourth watch of the night.** It was between three and six in the morning.

¿ Jesus sees the disciples toiling around 6 PM. Why do you think he doesn't come to them until it is between 3-6 AM? Does he usually take that long to help us?

## JESUS REJOINS THE DISCIPLES:

› (V. 48) **He was about to pass by them.** Would have passed by them. The word "would" is the translation of thelō (θελω) "I desire." He desired to pass by them. The word "by" is para (παρά) which means "beside." The King James Version leaves the impression that Jesus desired to pass them by. But He went out on that turbulent sea in order to go to their help. In context, the reason why Jesus went out to the disciples, was, not to pass by and leave them to their fate, but to come near and help them in their difficulty, which he did.

YES • NO • MAYBE

1. I do not scare as easily as the people sitting next to me!

2. I thoroughly enjoy being in a boat, regardless of the weather.

3. At times, God needs to spend time alone.

4. During tough times, it is difficult to recognize Jesus' presence.

5. You can be a close follower of Jesus and be mentally calloused and dumb.



## DIVE DEEPER (CONTINUED...)

¿ What does this phrase, “about to pass by them,” seem to be saying about God?

### THE MISUNDERSTANDING:

› (V. 49) **They thought he was a ghost.** Phantasma (φάντασμα) “an apparition, a specter.” The word was associated with magic and charms, thus with the system of Satan. When Luke (24:37) reports the fact of Jesus’ post-resurrection appearance to the disciples, he uses the word pneuma (πνεῦμα), for there they thought they had seen some person come back from the dead. But to have somebody walk on the sea, that would be magic to them.

**Cried out.** The verb is anakrazō (ἀνακραζω) “to raise a cry from the depth of the throat, to cry out.” It was a shriek of terror, a scream.

› (V. 50) **They all saw him and were afraid.** tarassō (ταράσσω) “to agitate, trouble, to cause one inward commotion.”

**He talked with them.** Matthew and John use the simple dative, “talked to them.” Mark’s expression should be translated, “with them,” which is more familiar, and describes Jesus’ words as more friendly and encouraging.

**Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.** “Take courage” is from tharseō (θάρσεω) which also means “Be of good cheer.” That is exactly what the terror-stricken disciples needed. “It is I.” The pronoun is used here for emphasis. Literally, “It is I and nobody else.” “Be not afraid.” The present imperative is used, forbidding the continuance of an action already going on. It is “Stop being afraid.”

¿ What does it say about God that these would be his first phrases in this situation?

› (V. 52) **They had not understood about the loaves.** The verb is suniēmi (συνιημι) “to set or bring together, to set or join together in the mind,” thus “to understand.” When considering the miracle of Jesus walking on the water, they did not connect the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand.

**Their hearts were hardened.** The verb is pōroō (πωρωω), in the passive “to grow hard or callous, become dull, lose the power of understanding.”

¿ What had they not understood about the loaves? What had they not mentally connected in order to soften their hearts? How do we still fail to connect the dots ourselves?

NOTES

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## MY PRAYER

1. How much do I allow God to calm my fears?
2. What storms of my life do I need God to walk on?
3. What new thing does God need me to know about His character this week?