

It Is I, Do Not Be Afraid!

▶ Introduction

We are fallen creatures,

We see God but do not perceive,

We hear yet do not understand.

We read the Bible and remain unchanged.

Without the Holy Spirit, we cannot see God.

The disciples were in the same situation as they see what was up to that point the clearest revelation about Jesus.

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Do you **see** Him who **visits** us?

Do you **hear** Him who **speaks** to us?

Do you **believe** in Him who **saves** us?

▶ Exposition

After the feeding of the five thousands,

v. 45 Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and leave the place.

v. 46 Jesus departed to the mountain to pray.

Unique feature of Mark: **the Pattern of Three** to highlight important themes in Mark.

Three times Jesus is depicted praying:

- Early in the morning after a busy Sabbath (Mark 1:35)
- Late night after a busy day feeding 5,000+ (our text today)
- In distress, in Gethsemane before the cross (Mark 14:32-36)

Application: never neglect taking time to pray!

- v. 47-48 Jesus prayed alone on the land, the disciples were struggling on the sea of Galilee. Galilee is a lake, 21 km long and 13 km wide; their boat is about 5-6 km in the middle. This lake is the lowest freshwater lake in the world = warm air. It is surrounded by high hills = cold air. Warm air meets cold air = sudden violent storms. 100 km/h wind, 3 meters waves. The disciples are struggling.
- v. 48 Fourth watch/3-6 a.m., Jesus came to them, walking on the sea, about to pass by them.

In the Old Testament, only God can walk on the sea.

Job 9:8 *[God] alone stretched out the heavens and trampled the waves of the sea.*

Isa 43:6 *God makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters.*

In the Old Testament, Yahweh passed by his people.

Exo 34:6 *The Lord **passed before** him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD..."*

1 Ki 19:11 *And behold, the Lord **passed by**, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks.*

Job 9:8, 11 *The Lord alone stretched out the heavens and trampled the waves of the sea. Behold, he **passes by** me.*

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In the Old Testament, no one can see God!

Job 9:11 Behold, he passes by me, and **I see him not**; he moves on, but **I do not perceive him**.

1 Ki 19:11 And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord **was not** in the wind.

John 1:18 No one has ever seen God.

v. 49 The disciples saw Jesus walking on the sea and thought Jesus was a ghost.

v. 50 They were all terrified. Jesus said, “**Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid!**”

In the Old Testament, God reveals himself as the “I AM,” and he frequently says, “Fear Not!”

Isa 35:4 Be strong, fear not.

Isa 41:10 **Fear not**, for **I am** with you, be not dismayed for **I am** your God.

Isa 41:13 ... **Fear not**, **I am** the one who helps you.

Isa 41:14 **Fear not**, your worm Jacob, you men of Israel! **I am** the one who helps you.

Isa 43:1 ... **Fear not**, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name, you are mine.

v. 51a Jesus got into the boat, and the wind ceased.

In the Old Testament, only God can calm the waters.

Psa 89:8-9 O Lord God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, O Lord, with your faithfulness all around you? You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, **you still them**.

Psa 77:16 The waters saw you, O God, the waters saw you, they were afraid.
Indeed, the deep trembled.

Psa 107:29 He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed.

v. 51b The disciples were utterly astounded

v. 52 For they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

The disciples could not see who Jesus truly was because they were still blinded.

Mark 8 Peter confessed Jesus as Christ, but then he rebuked Jesus for talking about his death.

Mark 14 The disciples all fled when Jesus was arrested. Peter denied him.

But the fact that we have the gospel today, we know that the disciples finally believed!

The risen Christ appeared to them, restored, commissioned, and gave them the Holy Spirit.

Once they got it, they went out in full force to proclaim this very gospel.

1 John 1:1-4

*That which was from the beginning, which we have **heard**, which we have **seen** with our eyes,*

*Which we **looked upon** and have **touched** with our hands, concerning the word of life,*

The life was made manifest and we have seen it

*And **testify** to it and **proclaim** to you the eternal life,*

Which was with the Father and was made manifest to us.

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▶ **Do you see Him who visits us?**

- Through the creation, the works of God's hands.
- Through his providence: every breath we take, every thought we conceive.

▶ **Do you hear Him who speaks to us?**

- Through the prophets and his own Son, Jesus.

John 1:18 *No one has ever seen God. but Jesus, the only God, who is at the Father's side, has made God known to us.*

▶ **Do you believe in Him who saves us?**

- We do not see because we are blinded by our own desires, by what we want.
- We think he doesn't answer unless he answers our way, our time.
- We are deafened by our anxious thoughts, anger, envy, pride, etc.

Stop believing your own heart, and trust in Jesus!

Believe that

- He is the only one who can save us from the storm of life.
- He can give you eyes that can see his glory.
- He can give you ears that can hear his still small voice.
- He can turn the darkest storm of life into the brightest dawn.

Isa 43:11 *I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no Saviour.*

Isa 43:25 *I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake*

▶ **Applications**

1. Come to Jesus!

He can save you from sin that storms your life and sinks you.

2. Trust Jesus more and more!

When you worship each Sunday, do you see his glory?

When you read the Bible, do you hear his voice?

3. Be patient in suffering!

Jesus is watching over you.

Jesus will surely come to your aid.

He ordains everything so that we may see him more clearly.

Job 42:5 *I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now me eye sees you!*

3. Share this good news!

The disciples were paralyzed because they did not know better at that time.

But once they got it, they couldn't help it, they went out to share Jesus to the ends of the world.

If you got it, if you believe it, **go** and **share** the gospel!