

# Pentwater Bible Church

*Gospel of Mark*  
*Message 27*

*September 28, 2014*



Christ in the Storm on the Lake of Galilee By Rembrandt Cir 1633.

Daniel E. Woodhead – Pastor Teacher

# Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Mark  
Message Twenty-Seven  
Jesus Walks on The Sea of Galilee  
September 28, 2014  
Daniel E. Woodhead



The Storm on the Sea of Galilee by Ludolf Backhuysen Cir 1695

## JESUS FEEDS THE FIVE THOUSAND

Mark 6:45-56

*<sup>45</sup> And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people. <sup>46</sup> And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray. <sup>47</sup> And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land. <sup>48</sup> And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them. <sup>49</sup> But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out: <sup>50</sup> for they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid. <sup>51</sup> And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered. <sup>52</sup> For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened. <sup>53</sup> And when they had passed over, they came into the land of Genesaret, and drew to the shore. <sup>54</sup> And when they were come out of the ship, straightway they knew him, <sup>55</sup> and*

*ran through that whole region round about, and began to carry about in beds those that were sick, where they heard he was. <sup>56</sup> And whithersoever he entered, into villages, or cities, or country, they laid the sick in the streets, and besought him that they might touch if it were but the border of his garment: and as many as touched him were made whole (KJV).*

## JESUS SENDS THE APOSTLES AWAY

### Mark 6:45-56

*<sup>45</sup> And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people (KJV).*

The massive effort of feeding the people with a miracle was over and Jesus and His disciples were leaving. The wonderful feeding of the people who numbered in excess of ten thousand had been completed and Jesus dismissed the crowd and His apostles. He got them all moving. In Mark's Gospel it all seems so sudden as was Mark's style but John takes the time to provide an explanation.

### John 6:15-17

*<sup>15</sup> When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone. <sup>16</sup> And when even was now come, his disciples went down unto the sea, <sup>17</sup> and entered into a ship, and went over the sea towards Capernaum. And it was now dark, and Jesus was not come to them (KJV).*

The Crowds were wild about Jesus. They were fatigued over the nearly constant Gentile occupation since 586 BC. They had a short time of self-rule from 516 B.C. to 300 B.C. and 167 B.C. to 65 B.C. Now it was the Romans who controlled their country. They wanted a King to throw off the yoke of the Roman occupiers. They knew that their Scriptures promised them a Redeemer and a King in the Messiah.

### Jeremiah 23:5-7

*<sup>5</sup> Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. <sup>6</sup> In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS (KJV).*

They saw Jesus as the Redeemer and the promised King of Israel. They just did not realize that one of the purposes of His first arrival was to sacrifice Himself for the world's sins. He was initiating the first stage to making an end of sin and they wanted Him to exercise His Second Coming mission. That will be to take physical control of the government of the world. In His first coming He provided the breaking of the addiction to sin in the believers. They saw all His miracles and compassion on them and they wanted Him to be their king. The whole idea that a King Messiah or *Mashiach Nagid* (Daniel 9:25; I Samuel 13:14) would deliver them was a blessed hope of the Jewish nation for many years. The hope they have has been given all through the Old Testament (Hebrew Tanakh) was now

realized in Jesus. King Messiah is the one through whom God's earthly kingdom will be ruled. He will:

1. Restore the Kingdom of David (Jeremiah 23:5; 30:9; Ezekiel 24:23).
2. Restore the Temple (Isaiah 2:2; Micah 4:1; Zechariah 6:13; Ezekiel 37:26-28).
3. Regather the exiles (Isaiah 11:12; 43:5-6).
4. Usher in world peace (Isaiah 2:4).
5. Spread the Word of God throughout the entire world uniting all the human family into one people. Zechariah 14:9 says "*And Jehovah shall be King over all the earth: in that day shall Jehovah be one, and his name one*" (ASV 1901).

Knowing this was not the appointed time for Him to be taking the reigns of Kingship of the earth He left, as they wanted to throng Him and force the Kingship upon Him. This time His earthly Kingdom was spiritual. Satan even offered the physical Kingdom to Him in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11) and He turned it down there too. He knew His mission well and was going to pursue it. The earthly kingdom they wanted to establish out of their fatigue was nothing compared to what God had planned for this earth (Daniel 2:44-45, 7:13-14). They were tired of oppression and wanted the king to reign now.

#### JESUS PRAYS IN SOLITUDE

Mark 6:45-46

<sup>45</sup> *And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people.* <sup>46</sup> *And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray (KJV).*

Even though He was tired after a huge miracle and crowds thronging Him, Jesus went out to a solitary (*erēmon*, "uninhabited, remote") place where He spent time praying. In the mean time He had the *disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida*. He withdrew from the pressing crowds to a wilderness place. This was the same kind of place where He initially confronted Satan and withstood his temptations. Mark only selects Jesus at prayer on three crucial occasions. It is interesting to see the setting for each. Each time Jesus is alone. Also each time are occasions when He was faced with the offer of achieving His messianic mission in a different way either Satan's offer or the crowds pressure. These of course would be outside of God's Will. But in each case He gained strength through prayer and pursued through with God's plan. In all occasions prayer is important for strength to pursue the line of a straight path that God desires for us while the world and evil constantly intervene to take us off the path of God.

#### JESUS APPROACHES THE BOAT WALKING ON THE WATER

Mark 6:47-48

<sup>47</sup> *And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land.* <sup>48</sup> *And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them (KJV).*

The disciples left sometime just before sunset so when the evening was upon them they were quite a ways from the shore. It was not unusual for them to fish at night. However, this night they were very tired and needed rest. As was the case on the Sea of Galilee a storm swelled up and blew in upon them. In earlier similar occasions Jesus was with them and calmed the storm. This time He left them to go and pray upon a nearby mountain. As the storm intensified they lowered the sails and began to row in order to gain better control over the boat in the storm. During the last watch of the night which is early dawn, called the fourth watch of the night (3 to 6 AM), Jesus knowing they were in trouble came to them *walking upon the sea*. John (John 6:19) explains that the disciples had travelled three or four miles before Jesus came to them. So He walked a great distance on the water to meet them in their distress. The phrase *would have passed by them* does mean that He was intending to pass by them and ignore their distressful predicament. It is a textual term of “passing beside” them so they could see Him. This is quite in keeping with an Old Testament theophany or the way God had manifested Himself to humankind in special situation to let us know that He is with us and is comforting us as well. Some examples are found in Exodus and I Kings as well and here in Mark.

Exodus 33:19, 22

*<sup>19</sup>And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and will proclaim the name of Jehovah before thee; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy; <sup>22</sup>and it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand until I have passed by (ASV 1901).*

I Kings 19:9-14

*<sup>9</sup>And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of Jehovah came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah?  
<sup>10</sup>And he said, I have been very jealous for Jehovah, the God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword: and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away. <sup>11</sup>And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before Jehovah. And, behold, Jehovah passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before Jehovah; but Jehovah was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but Jehovah was not in the earthquake: <sup>12</sup>and after the earthquake a fire; but Jehovah was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. <sup>13</sup>And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entrance of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah? <sup>14</sup>And he said, I have been very jealous for Jehovah, the God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away (ASV 1901).*

In both of these situation God passed by the men of God (Moses and Elijah) to comfort them in distressful situations and let them know that He is with them. For the faithful, God does not leave us comfortless. When Elijah was back in His cave (v. 13) he heard the *still small voice* of God reassuring him. They saw God’s presence in time and space and

received His comfort. This is exactly what Jesus was doing with His disciples on the Sea of Galilee in that storm as they struggled to row and maintain control of the boat.

#### THE DISCIPLES ARE AFRAID OF AND COMFORTED BY JESUS

Mark 6:49-50

*<sup>49</sup> But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out: <sup>50</sup> for they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid (KJV).*

Since they did not immediately recognize Jesus on the water they thought it was a ghost of some sort and they screamed in terror. Herod Antipas was not the only person to be taken with superstition. So it seems the disciples had irrational beliefs, which influenced them. The time before Christ came and before Christianity took hold in the Roman Empire there was much superstition and demonic possession. In other words the demonic influence was great and provided an influence that corrupted rational thought. Christ came at the exactly right time when these influences were at their height in society. Some today with marginal faith or trust in the providence of God exhibit faith in horoscopes and other irrational and unreliable mediums offering prognostications for their future. Here again Jesus says, “*O thou of little faith.*”

Jesus immediately (Gr. *euthys*;) calmed them and told them not to be afraid. He comforted them by saying, “*it is I.*” The literal rendering of the original Greek is I am here or just “I am.” Again He affirms His deity by quoting the Old Testament statements of self-revelation He made in the past (Exodus 3:14; Isaiah 41:4, 43:10, 52:6). Jesus came to them purposefully in their time of distress and great need with the appropriate comfort needed. He wanted them to see Him and trust in Him as the great Comforter in their lives. Matthew’s account is perhaps the most vivid as it includes the story of Peter’s desire to join the Lord on the water. As Jesus is offering them a faithful solution in Him to their distress the story of Peter’s experience best exemplifies this.

Matthew 14:28-31

*<sup>28</sup> And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. <sup>29</sup> And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. <sup>31</sup> And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt (KJV).*

When Peter’s faith was strong thinking he could walk on the water too he did exactly that. As soon as the wind threatened him he lost his faith and began to sink. Jesus said to Peter “Come” and Peter did just that. This situation is exactly how Jesus wants His children to exhibit our faith in Him. Trust, Trust, Trust and then more trust.

## JESUS CALMS

### Mark 6:51-52

<sup>51</sup> *And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered.* <sup>52</sup> *For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened (KJV).*

As Jesus entered the ship the *wind ceased* and the disciples expressed their wonder and amazement. They had already forgotten the supernatural nature of Jesus providing for the population on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. It was easy for them to forget who they were dealing with in Jesus and display their lack of genuine faith in Him as the God of the universe. The same thing happens today as we move through life's daily issues. We have seen God's miracles in our lives through our salvation and answer to prayer but we soon forget the extent of God's capabilities. Here He demonstrates His mastery over nature as the Creator and Sustainer. We must keep this close in our immediate conscious as God is in control of even nature. He can surely protect us if we are walking in His will and not in our own flesh. As Romans 8:1 says, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Trust is the synonym of faith. We truly place our trust in Him and we are blessed beyond measure.

## JESUS AND THE DISCIPLES CONTINUE TO HEAL

### Mark 6:53-56

<sup>53</sup> *And when they had passed over, they came into the land of Genesaret, and drew to the shore.* <sup>54</sup> *And when they were come out of the ship, straightway they knew him,* <sup>55</sup> *and ran through that whole region round about, and began to carry about in beds those that were sick, where they heard he was.* <sup>56</sup> *And whithersoever he entered, into villages, or cities, or country, they laid the sick in the streets, and besought him that they might touch if it were but the border of his garment: and as many as touched him were made whole (KJV).*

As a concluding statement to the miracle of the loaves and fish, walking on water and calming the sea this seemingly ends His Galilean ministry. He will depart from there to Tyre and Sidon after the events recalled in these verses. The people recognized Jesus and the disciples as they brought their sick on mats to Him for healing. Everywhere He went he healed them and they continued to beg Him for healing. Just as the woman with an issue of blood people sought to touch the hem of His garment for the healing they so earnestly desired and faithfully realized he could provide. All who touched the "edge" or "fringe" of blue tassels worn by Him on his outer cloak were healed (Numbers 15:37-41; Deuteronomy 22:12). What a blessing to be in the presence of the Lord of the Universe, who is the Creator of creation and the Author of salvation.

NEXT WEEK: MARK: THE PHARISEES TRY AND TRAP JESUS

**Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments**

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