

## **Trust in the Darkness**

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: Epic Faith

**Text: Mark 6:45-52**

~ Helen Keller – I can see, and that is why I can be happy, in what you call the dark, but which to me is so golden. I can see a God-made world, not a man made one.

The story of Jesus walking on water is also found in Matthew chapter 14. Matthew's version adds to the story with Peter getting out of the boat and walking on the water. This story takes place right after the disciples have just gotten done feeding a multitude with five loaves and two fishes. The disciples had just seen God provide a **miracle** for thousands but they still had a hard heart in understanding God was able to take care of them. **Mark 6:51-52**

We may wish for a peaceful, easy life but, sooner or later, almost everyone faces a tragic loss that can become a **crisis** of faith. When the disciples found themselves in a storm they found Jesus asleep and their question was "Jesus don't you care if we die?" We may wonder how the disciples could have ever felt that way, they were so thick headed and so slow to believe. However, many of us respond the same way to tragedies and trials.

When things go wrong or turn sideways we look for someone to **blame**; One father whose daughter who was diagnosed with cancer blamed himself and felt that if he had been a better father his daughter would not have died. It is true, some of our problems are self-inflicted, poor choices in finances lead to debt, poor communication leads to misunderstanding and conflict. There were two teenagers that had sex and the girl got pregnant, she complained "how could God let this happen." There are cases where there is a clear **connection** between a person's poor choices and painful events.

Comfort is seen as a foregone right in our culture. Because of this, many Christians believe they should be able to control everything in their lives. It takes great faith to realize that some things are **beyond** our control and even our understanding. That is the real lesson found in the book of Job. Job was a worshipper and lover of God. His pattern of trust in God was so deep that he knew that God was in control of everything and had already committed everyone and everything in his life to God. When the day of trouble came and Job lost everything in a matter of hours, his first response was to **combine** his grief with worship. **Job 1:21-22** There was nothing wrong in feeling deep sorrow and anguishing pain over his losses, he responded in faith because he had spent a lifetime cultivating his faith.

➤ **In times of hardship faith takes time to consider several things:**

Consider God's **history** with you. Job would recount how God had blessed him. The disciples on the water, in their panic, forgot that Jesus had just used a miracle to feed the multitudes. Faith looks back and remembers the faithfulness of God at other times. What angered God about the Israelites is that time and again they complained and walked in fear when over and over He had miraculously provided for them. **Psalm 78:5-42** We are to remember our history with God. Faith is built as we continue to trust and as we share His faithfulness with our children and grandchildren.

- Consider God's **sovereign** rule. Jesus could have calmed the seas from the shore line, instead He purposefully told them to get in the boat knowing full well they were headed for a storm. God allows difficult times in our lives for our good and for His glory. Because He is sovereign, He is Lord over our lives and what He permits, we **submit** to.

**Psalm 103:19, Ecclesiastes 7:13-14**

- Consider God's **activity** on our behalf. We need to know that Jesus is **praying** for us.

**Mark 6:46, Hebrews 7:25, Luke 22:32**

He **sees** us. **Mark 6:47-48** Jesus was aware of the struggle that the disciples were having as they rowed the boat. In the middle of our hardships it is important to remember that Jesus understands. He is also on His **way**. **John 6:19** Remember Jesus is right there with you but He will do something. After Job's trial God restored everything two fold to him.

- Consider God's **unexpected** presentation. **Mark 6:48-50** Many times the way that God chooses to reveal Himself to us in times of trouble rarely seem, on the surface, to be God. When God revealed Himself to Moses and Isaiah they both thought that they would die. Jacob wrestled with God and referred to that time of his life as when he wrestled with God face to face and lived to tell about it. Even before God restored him, Job declared that he had seen God. Consider that the way God will **reveal** Himself to you in your time of need may be vastly different than how you are expecting.
- Consider the **lessons** that the disciples failed to learn from the loaves and fishes.

**Mark 6:51-52 (AMP)**

- 1) Jesus is **compassionate**; although Jesus had healed many, He was also concerned with people's basic needs. He not only healed, He fed. The disciples needed to remember that, in times of trouble, Jesus does not just care for "people", He cared for them personally.
- 2) Jesus works through **progressive** miracles. It was as the disciples fed the people that the food multiplied. At the end there was a lot left over. The increase happened as they did the work.
- 3) We do not live according to the ways of the world; Jesus **tested** the disciples to see if they had enough money to buy bread. **John 6:5-7**

Too often we **limit** God by expecting Him to do things in a more natural way. Jesus took what was there, gave thanks for it and then got to doing what needed done. Faith is so acting on God's Word and will that God has to perform a miracle.