

The Gospel of Mark

Lesson 15: Mark 6:45-56

Jesus walks on the water (vv. 45-52)

Matt. 14:22-33
John 6:15-21

- After feeding the 5000 Jesus hustles the disciples away
 - John's gospel explains the political fervor welling up (6:14-15)
 - Jesus dismisses the people and goes by Himself to pray

What may be some reasons Jesus would go off by Himself to pray?

- Some debate about the place names in the gospel
 - The feeding was probably on the Plain of Bethsaida
 - They intend to go to the town of Bethsaida
 - The strong wind drives them to Gennesaret
- Probably not a miracle that Jesus could see them out on the sea
- Four watches in Roman reckoning (three in Jewish)
 - 1st: 6-9 pm; 2nd: 9pm-12am; 3rd: 12-3am; 4th: 3-6am

Why the odd wording of verse 48: "(He) would have passed them by"?

- "It is I" could be simply comfort or something greater
- Only Matthew includes Peter leaving the boat (14:28-31)
- Perhaps a second miracle when the wind calms as Jesus enters the boat
 - John has a likely third miracle with the boat being transported to land (6:21)

What don't the disciples understand about the feeding of the 5000?

How do we harmonize Matthew 14:33 and Mark 6:51-52?

Many in Gennesaret seek and receive healing (vv. 53-56)

Matt. 14:34-36

- Gennesaret was near Capernaum and was highly populated
- Jesus' fame ensures that many will come seeking Him
 - Matthew: the men of the town send word out that Jesus is there (14:35)
 - John's gospel has the people following Jesus hoping for another meal (6:22ff)
- Jesus will be leaving the area after these village visits
 - Mark summarizes Jesus' healing ministry in Galilee
- Similar actions here to the woman with the bleeding problem (5:25-34)

How do we compare the faith of the disciples and that of the people in this passage?