

Discussion Notes

Mark 6.45-56 – Jesus Walks on the Water

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6.45-46

- Jesus spends concentrated time with the Father.
- Jesus sends the disciples away before the crowds. A curious decision.

6.47-48

- Between 3AM and 6AM the disciples run into trouble on the lake.
 - Jesus is not with them
 - The disciples are struggling.
 - They are not beyond the eye of Jesus (the Great Shepherd).
 - John 20.29
- Jesus comes toward them
 - Deuteronomy 31.8

6.49-50

- Jesus walks past them? Mark's hint for us to look the Old Testament and be reminded of God "passing before" Moses in Exodus. This is a tip of the hat to Jesus' divinity.
- Consider Colossians 2.9
- The disciples are terrified, as a storm meant evil powers are at work. Jesus overrides the storm, which says a lot about his power and character.
- John 1.10

6.50-51

- "Don't be afraid", yet another dramatic Old Testament reference.
- Jesus is a first responder to a crisis and he identifies himself clearly.
- Exodus 34

6.52

- Their hearts were still hard, even after all they saw.
- Coming to faith is not always easy, it maybe a journey, as we are often overwhelmed with questions.
- The example to finding faith is in Jesus himself. He moves towards us, in hot pursuit. If we pursue him, we will find faith.
- Our pursuit of Jesus will only reveal his pursuit of us.

6.53-56

- People reach to Jesus and he reaches to them, "healing them all".

Discussion Questions:

- Why do the disciples find it so hard to trust Jesus? Why are their hearts hard?
- What gets in the way of our trust of Jesus?
- What does Jesus' water walking say about his relationship to creation and his dominance of evil?
- Why does Jesus walk on the water? What's the point of this story?