



The Jesus Series: Retreats and Storms

8.5.2018 || John 6:16-21

When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷ got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them.

- *From Mark 6:45-46 and Matthew 14:22-23 we see that Jesus made his disciples get in the boat while he dismissed the crowd.*
- *Jesus then goes up on the mountain to pray until late in the night.*

¹⁸The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing.

- *From Mark 6:48 and Matthew 14:24 we see that they were making headway painfully, and that the boat was beaten by the waves.*

¹⁹When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened. ²⁰But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid."

- *From Mark 6:48-50 and Matthew 14:25-27 we see that they thought he was a ghost and cried out because they were terrified.*
- *From Matthew 14:28-32 we see Peter's response to Jesus, asking him to command him to come out of the boat to him. Peter walks on the water but sinks as his fear returned looking at the wind.*
- *From Mark 6:51-52 and Matthew 14:32 we see the winds ceased the moment Jesus entered the boat. The men worshipped him as the son of God yet did not fully understand Him because of dull hearts.*

²¹Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going. **See also Psalm 107:23-30**



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Observations and Application from the text

Observe Jesus **retreating** to be alone with the Father.

- Time with the Father **strengthened** His Spirit and set His **direction**.
- Do you primarily live from **reaction**, conformity, independence, or **intentionality**?

We are humans, not machines. We were made for rhythms of silence and noise, community and solitude. But merely getting away is not enough. For those of us who are in Christ, we want to come back better, not only rested, but more ready to love and sacrifice. Getting away is no special grace on its own. But the goal is to create a context for enhancing our hearing from God in his word, and responding back to him in prayer – David Mathis

- We need to plan **consistent** retreats.
- Necessities of **retreat**: the Bible, a journal, and prayer.
 - **Journal**: thanksgivings, deep questions, and spiritual goals.

Observe how Jesus **used** the **storm** to strengthen the disciple's dependence and trust in Him.

- Why do storms (trials and suffering) come?
 - **Generally**: Life in a fallen world.
- Every Christ follower needs a good theology regarding **storms** of life. Not every storm will have an answer, but consider these possibilities:
 - **Sin** (yours or someone else's) - **John 5:14**
 - Repent or forgive and seek counsel.
 - **Spiritual** Attack – **Ephesians 6:12**
 - Meet with prayer (in community).
 - Lack of **Faith** – **Matthew 14:31**
 - Seek to grow in **steadfastness** through deeper intimacy with Christ - **Col 2:6-7 and Jude 1:20**.
 - **Spiritual** Growth – **James 1:2-4**
 - **Look** to Jesus and **learn** in the storm.

Life Truth: Fear and faith are always at odds. Let Faith arise in us, Church!

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