

The Testing of our Faith Mark 6:45-52

Jesus will put us in situations to test our faith. Mark 6:45-48

"Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side to Bethsaida, while He Himself was sending the crowd away. After bidding them farewell, He left for the mountain to pray.... Seeing them straining at the oars, for the wind was against them"

"made" =

"strain" =

- We will feel alone
- We will initially "strain" to move through the experience

2 Chronicles 33:10-13

Jesus will be watching, waiting and working to be with us. Mark 6:48-49

"...at about the fourth watch [3:00 - 6:00 AM] of the night He came to them, walking on the sea; and He intended to pass by them. But when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed that it was a ghost, and cried out"

"pass by" =

Exodus 33:22 and 34:6; Genesis 16:13; Psalm 139:1-6, 15-17

Jesus offers words for courage and will be present to help Mark 6:49-51

"But when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed that it was a ghost, and cried out; for they all saw Him and were terrified. But immediately He spoke with them and said to them, 'Take courage; it is I, do not be afraid.' Then He got into the boat with them, and the wind stopped; and they were utterly astonished"

Isaiah 41:4, 10, 13-14; 43:1, 2; 44:8; Acts 23:10-12; John 16:33

Warning: Our emotional fears may undermine our faith in Jesus' words and presence.

- Fear comes when it seems that Jesus has left me alone. Vs. 46
- Fear comes when I "strain" alone in my own strength. Vs. 48
- Fear may distort my view of Jesus. Vs. 49
- Fear can harden my heart of Jesus' work in my life. Vs. 52

- Faith grows as I listen and learn from the Words of Jesus. Vs. 50
- Faith expects Jesus to be present and help me. Vs. 51
- Faith discovers a new reality of the presence of Jesus as one who cares for me. Vs. 51

Therefore, remember and reflect on Jesus' past help for you and His present Word for you. Mark 6:52

"for they had not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves, but their heart was hardened."

Mark 6:33-44

Please respond on the back to overcome any fear and grow your faith in Christ.

Digging Deeper + LifeGroup Discussion:

As a response right now and in your LifeGroup, please reflect and write down your thoughts to the questions below.

Write down a time or situation when life was out of control or a sudden disaster or disappointment hurt you but then Jesus intervened to get you through it. How does that help you trust Him today? How can that help encourage someone else in need?

Review the promises below of His presence and power and write down in your own words how Jesus wants to reassure you and give you courage over any fear.

Matthew 28:18-20

Acts 1:7-8

Acts 23:10-12 and 27:21-25 (Paul was a mature follower of Jesus and still needed these words of courage)

John 14:18, 26-27

John 16:33

Isaiah 41:4, 10, 13-14; 43:1-2; 44:8

Next Steps:

JOIN US FOR VBS! At Shipwrecked VBS (Vacation Bible School), from July 23 – 27 at 9:00 am – 12:30 pm, kids discover how Jesus rescues us through life's storms.

- **Register for VBS:** Calvary's VBS is open to kids entering grades 1 through 6 (in the fall of 2017). And best of all, it's all FREE! Register your kids - and invite other families to do so too – at calvarylife.org/vbs
- **Volunteer at VBS:** It's rare to be able to offer such a great VBS for free. One distinction with Calvary Church's VBS is that it has always been free and always will be, but that is only because of generous people like you. Register to volunteer at calvarylife.org/vbs
- **Donate to VBS:** Can't be a VBS volunteer but still want to help? You can help by donating supplies. With a new, fun craft and snack every day of VBS, we'll need lots of help in this area. Visit the VBS Donation Station in the lobby to pick up a tag, then just purchase that item and bring it back to Calvary. Or we can always use gift cards to Smart & Final, Costco, and Target too. Learn more at calvarylife.org/vbs



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