

Week of Apr 7, 2019 — Focus: Mark 6:30-56

Introduction

When was the last time you faced an “impossible” situation? How did you get into the situation? How did you get out?

- What was your attitude like throughout?

Scripture Questions

Re-read Mark 6:30-56 to refresh your memory

- What were Jesus and the disciples trying to get away and do? (v. 31)
 - Why weren't they able to do it?
 - Think about how *you* would have responded to the crowds in that situation? Compare that with how Jesus responds (v. 34)
- What word is repeated three times—once each in verses 31, 32, and 35?
 - What do you suppose this is meant to bring up in the minds of the readers? (See also Mark 1:3-5, 12-13, 35, 45)
- Jesus was very aware of *where* they were, but the associated challenges (lack of food, for example) didn't seem to phase him. Why do you think this is? What did he know that the disciples didn't?
- Why would Jesus say what he said in verse 37? What might he want the disciples to understand?
 - Do you think they got it? Why or why not?
- What example does Jesus set in verse 46? How does verse 45 say he was able to accomplish this?
- After walking on water, what was Jesus' response to the disciple's fear (v. 50)?
 - How does his response point to his divinity (hint: focus on the words “It is I”)
- Re-read v. 51-52. Why would Mark suggest that the disciples' astonishment at Jesus shows their *misunderstanding* and *hard-heartedness*? Isn't astonishment at Jesus' miracles a good thing? What gives?

Application Questions

Leadership

Jesus saw himself as the leader the people needed. He was teaching in the synagogues with authority; he was preaching, healing and driving out demons; he was leading a group of disciples. When he saw the people were leaderless—like sheep without a shepherd (v. 34)—he had compassion on them and stepped up again to fill the need.

- Do you see a *need for leadership* in your life? Or do you prefer to “be your own boss?”
- How do you respond to Jesus’ role as leader and Lord of all (including Lord of you)? Do you welcome Jesus’ lordship or spurn it?
 - How does that play out in your day to day life? Home? Work? Finances? Relationships?

Impossible

Jesus showed again and again that there is nothing impossible for him. No matter the storm, the opposing power, the lack of basic needs, Jesus can handle it—because he is God!

- Do you believe this? If you’re not completely sure, what causes you to doubt?
- What are some examples of “impossibilities” in your life right now? What seems hopeless to change?
 - Can you trust God in the middle of this circumstance? Do you?

Choose Belief

When we face trials, we essentially have one of two choices: We can either remember God’s power, believe his goodness and press into him OR we can ignore his claims, doubt his goodness and turn away from him.

- Can anyone share an example where they remembered/believed/pressed in to God during a trial?
- Can anyone share an example where they ignored/doubted/turned away from God?
- Which way do you typically lean towards?

Prayer

- Ask God to increase your faith in his goodness and power
- Ask for an enabling to turn to him in the midst of trials
- Confess unbelief, lack of submission/trust in his leadership
- Acknowledge—along with Christians for over 2,000 years—the confession that Jesus is Lord of all!