

Series: Life to the Full; *Sermon:* **Do Not Be Afraid**
Delivered by: **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor; *Date:* **February 11, 2018**

Bible text explored: John 6:16–21

¹⁶When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. 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.” ²¹Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going. [ESV]

Review and application:

Any exhilaration the disciples may have felt at the public acclaim that came with the feeding of the five thousand was promptly followed (vv. 16-18) by the desperation of finding themselves in rough seas in the dark.

1. Have you experienced a similar depressing trough after a mountain-top experience?
Does Scripture justify our being surprised at encountering difficulties and confusion? (Pastor Moody referred to *Psalms 22* as an example of the Bible’s laments.)
2. Do you think Jesus deliberately set out to enlarge the disciples’ perspective? (See the parallel account in *Matt. 14:22-23*.)
3. Why (v. 19) were the disciples scared senseless at seeing Jesus walking effortlessly on the churning sea? (See *Matt. 14:26*.)
4. “If your Jesus is not big enough to scare you,” Pastor Josh declared, “he is not strong enough to save you.” And in our concluding hymn, we sang “The winds and waves still know his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.” What can we do to prevent familiarity with the Scriptures from diminishing the sense of awe that overwhelmed the disciples?
5. Jesus’ words “It is I” (v. 20) reads simply “I AM” in the Greek. What is the significance of Jesus identifying himself in the same way that God had revealed himself to Moses from the burning bush? (See *Exod. 3:14-15*.)
6. What (v. 21) made the disciples eager to take Jesus on board?
How did safely arriving at their destination “in no time” contrast with their earlier struggling at the oars?
Have you wholeheartedly welcomed Jesus into the boat of your life? (See *2 Cor. 5:16-17*.)
7. The plans *we* envision are not always best for us. Does realizing this help us submit to the sovereign Lord who is fully able to calm our storms?