

Series: Explore God Chicago; Sermon: **Is Jesus Really God?**
Delivered by **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor; Date: February 10, 2019

Bible text explored: Mark 6:45–52

⁴⁵Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray. ⁴⁷And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. ⁴⁸And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them, ⁴⁹but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, ⁵⁰for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.” ⁵¹And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, ⁵²for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. The previous paragraph (*Mark 6:32-44*) records Jesus producing a meal that fed at least five thousand people. But had his disciples grasped (v. 52) what that event implied about his identity?
In today’s passage they begin to grapple with what had yet to penetrate their hearts. How long did it take for them to fully “get it”? (See *John 12:16*.)
2. How (vv. 47-48a) would a night of desperate rowing against a violent headwind have demonstrated the limits to human ability?
Can you relate to the disciples’ very human exhaustion and fear in the face of overwhelming adversity?
Did your situation make you long for divine intervention?
3. Was the screaming of the disciples warranted (vv. 48b-50a) at the approach of a walking-on-waves “ghost”?
Peter’s impression—as passed on to Gospel author Mark—was that Jesus had been about to pass on by while they struggled. When have you felt you are struggling alone and not receiving real help?
Have easy religious answers to complex problems sometimes appeared to you to be “fake help”?
4. How did Jesus’ words and his boarding of the disciple’s boat (vv. 50b-51) dispel their terror?
But what about Jesus’ words, “It is I,” and the abrupt end of the storm stunned them? (See *Exod. 3:14-15* and *Deut. 32:39*.)
5. What has, or will, happen if you let Jesus board your “boat”?
Have you had an encounter like those of other Jesus-followers, as recorded in *Luke 24:28-39*?