

Series in Mark: Who is this man?

Sermon: **The God of Glory**

Scripture: [Mark 6:45-52](#)

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When I was a boy, the main character in the story of the feeding of the 5000 *seemed to be* the little boy with the 5 loaves and 2 fish.

The application was that we should give God what little we have and he will turn it into something great.

But, it's not just a story, it was a real event.
Something great actually happened.

Sadly, in our *man-centeredness* we miss what's most important in this story. We miss the greatness and glory of God. **God is always the main character.**

We should read to **behold his glory.**

We should read to know- **GOD.**

And we want to see him and savor Him.

We are not meant to read the Bible and look in the mirror, *primarily.*

We are meant to look UP!

Let's pray.

Jesus, in the story of the feeding of the 5000, is the compassionate shepherd who feeds the multitude...out in the desolate place....with bread and meaty fish. He created it out of nowhere.

In Exodus 16, God Almighty, the Shepherd of Israel, the great I AM..fed the people of Israel out in the wilderness. He made bread rain down from heaven (called manna).

And he sent meaty birds called Quail to fill the camp.

Bread and meat. And they all ate and were satisfied.

No mere man can create food from nothing.

The Creator and the Sustainer of everyone and everything was standing in their midst in that grassy place- creating food; providing food.

He is God. He is powerful. He is glorious.

That's what we are meant to see.

BEHOLD his glory.

Now, today we come to the story where Jesus walks on the water. Mark connects the feeding of the 5000 and the walking on the water....two of the most famous miracles of Jesus.

What's the connection between the two?

Turn in your Bible to Mark **6:45**...and let's read together.

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

See...right there in verse 52 says, *“for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.”*

So, there’s a connection. Matthew, Luke and John don’t record this connection, but Mark does.

Mark says that the *reason* the disciples were ‘utterly astounded’, {which in Greek means, ‘very much exceedingly in themselves..amazed’}.....

is because they didn't understand about the loaves....the bread...the feeding of the 5000.

Why? What did they not get?

*In the feeding of the 5000, they saw a great miracle...a marvel but they missed the connection that Jesus was making.

The wilderness, manna, bread, meat, shepherd, compassion, creating something from nothing...from nowhere....They missed the Jehovah God connection!

So,...it's like Jesus is saying, *"Ok. They didn't see my glory the first time....so let's try showing them from another angle."*

In the walking on the water, **Jesus shows them 3 ways that he is GOD.** He shows his glory in 3 ways.

1. HE WALKED ON THE WATER.

Now, I hate to state the obvious but that's not normal.

People can't walk on water. It's scientifically impossible.

I've tried. I tried to do it several times behind a boat traveling at 40mph on a lake that was smooth as glass. Each time I fell on my face and it hurts...really bad.

Jesus, walked a few miles on top of the water; rough water.

This is not humanly possible. He either did it and it makes him other than a *mere* human or it's a lie and he didn't.

Listen to Job 9:6-11

6 who shakes the earth out of its place, and its pillars tremble; 7 who commands the sun, and it does not rise; who seals up the stars; 8 who alone stretched out the heavens and *trampled the waves of the sea*; 9 who made the Bear and Orion, the Pleiades and the chambers of the south; 10 who does great things beyond searching out, and marvelous things beyond number. 11 *Behold, he passes by me, and I see him not; he moves on, but I do not perceive him.*

Jesus walking on the water says something about who HE is. He is GOD.

2. HE MEANT TO PASS BY THEM.

You may have wondered why Mark has included this phrase, "pass them by". It's because he wants to point us to something. It's not because Jesus was trying to play 'hide & seek'.

In language we use these kinds of phrases all the time and they have historical meaning for us.

For example: We recently, on July 4th, celebrated American Independence Day. We have many slogans

that came from the war, which if said today would make many (who know history) think back to a specific time.....

**“One if By Land, Two if By Sea”,
"Don't Shoot Until You See The Whites Of Their Eyes"
"No Taxation without Representation"
"Give me liberty or give me death."**

When Mark includes this phrase, “He meant to pass by them”, we should think... *Old Testament*. Where in the Old Testament did God ‘pass by’...someone?

We already read the passage in JOB 9:11 where the LORD passed by....where else do we see this???

Exodus 33:18 Moses said, “Please show me your glory.” 19 And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The LORD.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. 20 But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.” 21 And the LORD said, “Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, 22 and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. 23 Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.”

1 Kings 19:9-13 9 There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” 10 He said, “I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.” 11 And he said, “Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD.” And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. 12 And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. 13 And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

You see the pictures?

1. God feeding the people in the wilderness with bread and meat out of nowhere.
2. Walking on water....only God does that.
3. Passing by them or passing before them....what Jehovah God did with Moses and Elijah.

But the last one is the most striking.

3. IN VERSE 50, JESUS SAYS, HAVE COURAGE. I AM. DON'T BE AFRAID.

50 for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.”

Literally, Jesus uses the phrase, I AM here. There are 2 ways to say, “I am” in Greek. But Jesus uses the phrase that is used for God. It means, “I, I AM.” This is the name God gives himself in Exodus 3:13-14

13 Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” 14 God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

Jesus only uses this phrase twice in Mark’s gospel. He uses in John a lot. The other place is Mark 14:62.

61 But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” 62 And Jesus said, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.” 63 And the high priest tore his garments and said, “What further witnesses do we need? 64 You have heard his blasphemy. What is your

decision?” And they all condemned him as deserving death.

Jesus showed the disciples his glory.

- First, he fed the 5000, the Compassionate Shepherd of Israel...the Creator of all things...feeding the people again with bread and meat- just as he had done before in the wilderness.
- Jesus then walked on the sea. Something no human can do. Only God can do that.
- Thirdly, Mark tells us that Jesus ‘Passed by them’, a clear sign pointing us to the true identity of Jesus Christ. He is the Old Testament Yahweh; Jehovah.
- Lastly, he uses the name for GOD for himself. A person CANNOT do this, unless he’s GOD.

How did the disciples miss it? How did they see the miracle...see the marvel...but miss who Jesus was?

The scripture says their hearts were hard....that means unbelief. Hard to what? Not believing what?

They were expecting him to be something else. They saw something in Jesus.....they saw a prophet, a miracle man, a healer, but what they didn’t see was the God of Glory.

They weren't expecting Yahweh. They weren't expecting him to be the Old Testament Jehovah in human flesh!

Some questions for you this morning?

Do you know God? I mean really KNOW him?

Do you strive to KNOW him?

Do you BEHOLD his glory? His MAGNIFICENCE!

Are you CLOSE to God?

How bad do you want to be CLOSE to him?

Do you hunger for God? Is your appetite for him?

You see, it's possible to know a lot about Jesus and even see him do some cool things and not really know him or know him well.

It's quite simple: if your not a follower of Jesus...today is the day to consider everything in your life worthless in comparison to Jesus. In your joy....come to him and he will forgive your sins and you can have a relationship with God.

Christian, What is hindering you from knowing God more?

What is starving your affections for Christ. Kill it and pursue Christ.

