**Mark 6:45-52**

I. The storms of life

A. A boat tossed about on the sea is a great metaphor for our lives

B. We often feel alone in the midst of the storms of life and we are tempted to lose faith

C. The disciples’ hearts were hardened 6:52: they had failed to grasp the significance of the way Jesus had miraculously provided bread for 5000 and weren’t able to transfer that experience to their experience out at sea

D. But God is always present and at work through the storms of our lives

 1. They may be financial, emotional, relational, or physical challenges

2. God is sovereign in these circumstances and allows them into our lives so that we grow into the image of his Son.

3. If we rely on our own resources, we would be right to be terrified, but with him we can be at peace

II. Four principles to draw from this story

 A. Jesus sees us in our circumstances

He is our faithful high priest who is able to sympathize with our weaknesses (Hb 4:15)

 B. Jesus transcends our circumstances

 1. He is able to walk right through the storms of our lives

 2. He is able to command the wind and waves to be still

 C. Jesus presents himself to us in our circumstances

 1. “Be of good cheer, it is I, don’t be afraid”

2. If we look at our circumstances we will be tempted to be afraid, but if we look at Jesus in the midst of our circumstances we can be of good cheer

 D. Jesus enters with us in our circumstances

1. Jesus gets into the boat with them and immediately the storm ceases and they arrive at their destination

 2. If Jesus is with you in the storm, you can praise the Lord

 3. Life is all about trusting Jesus

**Discussion Questions**

1. Mark 6:45-52 is a very familiar story. Was there anything new you learned or anything you appreciated more deeply in considering this story again on Sunday? Or were there any questions that Sunday’s message raised in your mind?

2. Consider the image of a boat tossed about at sea. Is there any area in your life right now where you can relate to that image?

3. v. 51-52 tells us that the disciples had failed to learn about the faithfulness of Jesus in the experience of the loaves and fish so that they were untrusting again in the storm. How has Jesus’ faithfulness to you in the past shaped the way you approach challenges in your life today? Have you seen growth in your ability to trust him, and if so, what has that looked like practically?

4. The following statement was made on Sunday: “If we look at our circumstances we will be tempted to be afraid, but if we look to Jesus in the midst of our circumstances we can be of good cheer.” What does that look like for you personally? What would you want that to look like for you specifically at this time in your life?