

Living the Word

A Bible Study for Missionary Discipleship

Session 12

Mark 6:45-52

“Take heart, it is I; have no fear.”



Diocese of
CROOKSTON
www.crookston.org

Office of Formation in Discipleship

P.O. Box 610 | Crookston, Minnesota | 56716

T: (218) 281-4533 | F: (218) 281-5991

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OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, create in us an ever-growing faith, with hearts open and centered in you. Awaken within us the fire of your Spirit, so that your love may fill us more fully, and flow throughout our lives. Increase within us a desire to reach out, to invite and to share, to welcome and accept. Awaken the faith of all your children, especially those who have grown distant from you, those ready to hear an invitation to the love you alone can bring. Awaken us, loving God, to see the fullness of your grace and peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord . Amen

OPENING PSALM

(one person (or group) read line 1 and one person (or group) read line 2)

Psalm 25

Prayer for Guidance and for Deliverance Of David.

¹ To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

² Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

¹ Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

² Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

¹ Good and upright is the LORD; therefore, he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble his way. All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

² For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great. Who are they that fear the LORD? He will teach them the way that they should choose. They will abide in prosperity, and their children shall possess the land. The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes his covenant known to them.

OPENING REFLECTION VIDEO

<https://yourparishmatters.com/article/service-revive-parishes/>

THIS WEEKS BIBLE PASSAGE

“And He got into the boat with them and the wind ceased.”

Are you willing to step into the boat?

Mark 6:45-52

Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. And after he had taken leave of them, he went up into the hills to pray. And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. And he saw that they were distressed in rowing, 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, but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out; for they all saw him, and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; have no fear.” And he got into the boat with them and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

REFLECTION

The disciples feel unsafe. They feel they are in danger. To some degree, they are, but in another sense, they are not. Their friend and master is the Son of God. Will he really let them perish?

They cannot think of that right now. They are focused on the immediate danger caused by the storm that is raging all around them. Lightning strikes. Rain pelts their faces. The waves toss the boat; they come crashing into the boat. Some are bailing water frantically. Others are rowing with all their might toward the shore, only to be swept further and further out to sea.

“He saw that they were distressed.”

He saw them, but they did not see him. We often see others in distress, and they do not realize that we see them in their distress.

“He came to them.”

He saw them, and he came to them. They say that the darkest hour is just before the dawn. Jesus comes to them during the fourth watch of the night, between the hours of 3 am and 6 am. He comes to them when the darkness is deepest. They are exhausted. They are about to give up.

“He got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased.”

Jesus stepped into the boat, and the storm ceased. The presence of Jesus brings peace, a great calm. The morning of the Resurrection, Jesus appeared in another boat during another great storm, the inner storm of fear that raged in the hearts of the disciples after the crucifixion. He appeared to them and said, “Peace be with you.” A great calm enveloped them there, too.

You and I have Jesus in our boat. He steps into our boat when we call upon his name. “Jesus.” His name contains the presence it signifies (CCC 1666). When we call on the name of Jesus, he steps into our boat and calms the storm. When we receive the Eucharist, he steps into our boat and calms the storm.

He also transforms us into himself. You and I are members of the Body of Christ. That means that we are called, like Jesus, to step into the storms of others. We are called to walk into the storm and to step into their boat. We walk into the storm not with our own power but with the power of Jesus of whose Body we are members. Jesus is in our boat, so when we step into another’s boat, Jesus steps into their boat too, and he brings the peace that only He can give.

It is a scary thing to step into a storm. They will be scared. We might be scared. “It is a ghost!” The key is to walk into the storm focused not on the storm and its effects, but with our eyes fixed on Jesus. What does Jesus desire for this person? He desires to bring them peace, to bring them love, to bring them joy. He longs to be present to them.

He desires to step into their boat, through you. Your presence brings the presence of Jesus.

“He saw that they were distressed.”

“He came to them.”

“He got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased.”

See their distress. Come to them. Step into the boat with them. The wind will cease.

PAUSE FOR SILENT PRAYER

Pray a decade of the Rosary reflecting on the fourth joyful Mystery: “the finding of Jesus in the temple.”(One Our Father, 10 Hail Mary’s and Glory Be).

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Do you focus on Jesus when storms arise, or do you focus on the storm?

Think of someone who is caught in the midst of a storm.

How might you step into their boat with the presence of Jesus?

CALL TO ACTION

Do we leave Mass with this mission?

CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, you send your disciples on mission to make God's love and mercy known. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that we go forth as your missionary disciples, reflecting God's love in the world and speaking the name of Jesus to others. May the Going Forth As Disciples ministry bear fruit in our community and parish as it prepares us to accompany others toward You and Your Church. Who live and reign with God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.