

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm 136:1-9

His mercy endures forever. (v1b)

Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 6:45-56

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, powerful & compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding & protecting us. Heal each of us, & make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice & peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Mark 6:45-56

⁴⁵Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat & go on ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶After saying farewell to them, he went up on the mountain to pray. ⁴⁷When evening came, the boat was out on the sea, & he was alone on the land. ⁴⁸When he saw that they were straining at the oars against an adverse wind, he came towards them early in the morning, walking on the sea. He intended to pass them by. ⁴⁹But when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost & cried out; ⁵⁰for they all saw him & were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them & said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." ⁵¹Then he got into the boat with them & the wind ceased. & they were utterly astounded, ⁵²for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened. ⁵³When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret & moored the boat. ⁵⁴When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, ⁵⁵and rushed about that whole region & began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, & begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; & all who touched it were healed.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Consider *Mark 4:35-40, 5:1-21, 5:21-43*; what connections do you find? How do (should) those episodes inform *vv48-52*?
2. Consider the similar language used in *v50 & 16:6* as well as *6:52, 10:5, 16:14*; what do you make of these connections?

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Political events in the last few weeks have been alarming. How do you confront your fearfulness (*cf. v50*)? See *Psalms 20:7-9, 33:13-22, 76:4-9, 146:1-5, 147:10-11; Matthew 10:24-30; Philippians 4:7; Ephesians 5:6-20, 6:10-18; 1 Peter 3:8-17*
4. Consider the contrast between the disciples' fear (*vv49-50*) & the crowd's enthusiasm for Jesus (*vv54-56*). Review *5:1-20, esp. vv14, 17* also. How can Jesus elicit such divergent responses? When has he caused you to react wildly differently? What were the circumstances & outcomes? In hindsight, how do you rate your initial reactions?

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. *Vv54-56* illustrate the zeal that new believers sometimes have. What encouragement do you, as a long(er)-time believer, find in their excitement? How can you mirror that enthusiasm for Jesus into your everyday life, especially as you encounter pre-Christians?
6. Four times St. Paul mentions peace in *Ephesians 2:11-22*, speaking of the peace we have with God & the godly peace shared between baptized, believing Jews & Gentiles. How does this peace enable you to grow with both established members of your congregation & with new, moved-in persons to your congregation? How does this peace prevent hostility & favoritism? Where do you still harbor a dividing wall between old/near & the new/far off in your congregation?

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

07.21.24

Series: The Shape of Belief

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Our inward beliefs about Jesus shape our outward lives

Amid Fear

No Jesus? No courage. Know Jesus & know courage

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: But immediately he spoke to them & said,
"Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." (v50b)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

A great prophet has risen among us! God has looked favorably on us!
(*Luke 7:16*)

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