



JESUS: The Servant of God

A verse-by-verse study of the Gospel of Mark

The Gospel Helps Us See

Mark 6:45-56

Message #16

Sermon given on March 8, 2026



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The Gospel Helps Us See

Mark 6:45-56

Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Mark 6**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Mark – **JESUS: The Servant of God**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The Gospel Helps Us See**
- There was a time when almost everyone believed the world was flat.
- In the 6th century BC Pythagoras proposed a spherical earth.
- 330 BC Aristotle accepted that the earth was not flat.
- Even more than 1,000 years later, at the time Columbus sailed the oceans blue, sailors were afraid if they went too far, they would fall over the edge of the earth.
- What we believe determines what we see.
- If what we believe is wrong, the way we see and interpret the world will be wrong.
- If you believe the United States is evil racist, or corrupt, then everything you see about the US is filtered through that belief.
- When confronted with facts that contradict your beliefs, you must make a choice.
- You can choose to disregard those pesky facts that don't align with your beliefs, or you reevaluate your beliefs in the light of those facts.
- You can try to ignore those facts that disagree with your beliefs, but then you have to live with the consequences of ignoring the truth.
- There are some who still say the world is flat.
- When I hear someone say the world is flat, I can't take anything else they say seriously.
- We must do something similar with our faith.
- One of the signs of spiritual maturity is knowing that we don't know everything there is to be known about God.

- There are some things about God that are unknowable, because He has hidden them from us.
- What He has revealed to us about Himself is found in His Word.
- Even with the Bible, we have so much to learn about God. **Romans 11:33**

³³ **Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!**

- We read, study, and teach the Bible because God’s Word is truth.
- We want to grow in our knowledge and understanding of truth so that when we look out at this world, we can see it with eyes of real faith.
- Recently, I heard someone say God made transgender people the way they are so we should accept their identity.
- Because I know what God’s Word say, I know it wasn’t God who made them transgender, it was sin.
- We can’t affirm them in their sin any more than we can a thief or adulterer or liar.
- God didn’t make someone steal, sin made them steal.
- We need to help them accept the truth of God’s Word and encourage them to repent, just like we would any other sinner.
- Our desire is that they would live the best life possible, and that is not living a lie. **John 10:10**

¹⁰ **The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.**

- Just like each of us was encouraged to repent and trust in Christ Jesus.
- The Devil has convinced many in the world to believe his lies and he is stealing, killing, and destroying every good thing God wants for their lives.
- In our text for this morning, the disciples reveal that what they believe about Jesus is not accurate or complete.
- In this we will see the consequences of wrong beliefs and the blessings of right beliefs.
- In our last time together, Jesus performed the radical miracle of feeding the 5,000.
- John records how the people responded to this miracle. **John 6:14-15**

¹⁴**Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.”** ¹⁵**Therefore when Jesus perceived**

that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.

- The people had an incomplete understanding about the Messiah, the Savior of Israel.
- They expected Him to come and overthrow the enemies of Israel, the Romans at that time.
- They wanted a king to set up a kingdom like the kingdom of King David.
- But that was not what He was there for, this time.
- This time He was here to set up a different kingdom. **Mark 1:14-15**
¹⁴ ... Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”
- It was not to be an earthly kingdom but a kingdom in the hearts of men and women.
- Because what they believed was wrong, the people planned to make Jesus their King.
- That is the context for our text for this morning.
- **Mark 6:45-46**
- Jesus’ response to their plan to make Him king is to send the disciples to Bethsaida and go up on the mountain to pray.
- At the beginning of this day, Jesus determined to take the disciples away to rest because the multitudes kept coming and they didn’t even have time to eat.
- They get to a deserted place, and the multitudes are there waiting for them.
- Jesus then teaches them until sometime in the afternoon.
- Jesus then tells the disciples to feed the people, and the miraculous feeding takes place.
- After they are done with that, Jesus tells them to get into the boat and leave.
- None of that sounds all that restful.
- **Mark 6:47-48a**
- Not only have they not gotten any rest, but now they are straining against the wind.
- This is going to be a test of their faith.

- Tests often come at the least opportune times or when we are unprepared to deal with them.
- The disciples are tired and struggling.
- **Mark 6:48b-50a**
- The fourth watch runs from 3am to 6am.
- That means they have been struggling for hours.
- From where Jesus is praying, He can see the disciples struggling.
- Whatever you are struggling with, Jesus can see you.
- He knows what you are going through.
- They probably weren't in danger, but they would have been frustrated and exhausted.
- And then here comes Jesus walking on the waves.
- Even though they have witnessed Jesus do countless miraculous things, they are still frightened by His presence. **R. Kent Hughes** "The very waves that distressed them became the path for His [Jesus'] feet."
- The same is true for each of us, the struggles of your life can bring Jesus closer to you, if you have spiritual eyes to see Him.
- **Mark 6:50b**
- Turn to **Matthew 14**.
- Jesus says to them, I'm here, you have nothing to fear.
- Jesus is the antidote to all fear.
- He is invisible but always present and watching over those people who have put their faith in Him.
- Mark leaves out something that Matthew records.
- **Matthew 14:27-31**
- Peter trusted Jesus and did something miraculous.
- Then he trusted his eyes and sank.
- Turn back to **Mark 6**.
- Trust Jesus and not in what you can see. **Proverbs 3:5-6**
- ⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;
- ⁶in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.
- **Mark 6:51-52**
- Peter walks with Jesus back to the boat.
- John's gospel says they immediately arrived at their destination.
- Even the disciples after witnessing the miraculous feeding are struggling to believe.

- Which miracle was more difficult, feeding 5,000 men plus women and children with five loaves and two fish or walking on water?
- Humanly speaking they are both impossible.
- But for God, neither of them is difficult at all.
- When it says their hearts were hardened it means they still do not believing that Jesus is God.
- The Bible says God walks on water. **Job 9:8-10**
⁸He alone spreads out the heavens, and treads on the waves of the sea; ⁹He made the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades, and the chambers of the south; ¹⁰He does great things past finding out, yes, wonders without number.
- For most people who are struggling in this life it is not because their problems are too big, it is because their view of God is too small.
- Jesus brings the disciples to the other side.
- **Mark 6:53-56**
- These are the same people who asked Jesus to leave after He healed the demoniac of thousands of demons.
- The man healed of the demons went and told everyone what Jesus did for him.
- We are surrounded by people who need a touch from Jesus to be healed.
- They all have the terminal disease of sin. **Romans 6:23**
²³For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- This is the heart of intercessory prayer.
- Bring them before Jesus, ask Him to heal them, and ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to help them reach out to touch Jesus.
- Jesus is the only hope this world has.
- He is the only hope for eternal life. **John 14:6**
⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
- And He is the only hope we have for a good life while we wait for eternal life.
- Believing that is the first step to living the good life Jesus died to give you.
- If you believe there is any other path to a good life than Jesus, your belief is wrong and you will miss the good you could experience with Jesus.

- That doesn't mean it will always be easy, but it can be good even when it is hard.
- The disciples didn't understand who Jesus was.
- They believed He was a good teacher, a miracle worker, a prophet, and maybe even the Messiah.
- All of those things were true, but Jesus is so much more than that.
- After Peter nearly drowned and then walked back to the boat, the disciples finally started to get it. **Matthew 14:32-33**

³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

- Jesus is the Son of God, the Second Person of the Triune Godhead – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
- That is where our faith must be rooted if it is going to lead us to the good life. **1 John 5:20**

²⁰ And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

- The whole universe exists to glorify God, including each one of us.
- The best way for each of us to do that is to believe God and His Word and walk in obedience with Christ Jesus. **Hebrews 11:6**

⁶ But without faith *it is impossible to please Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him*.

- Pleasing God by walking in faith and obedience is the greatest thing we could hope to accomplish in this life.
- Doing that positions us to experience every blessing God desires to pour into our lives.
- And when we experience the blessings of God through faith and obedience, everyone around us can experience it too, and they are exposed to God's glory, and they too, might come to know our Savior God.
- That is a good life!
- **Pray – Last Song**