

MARK — In The Middle

Pastor Ryan Bunbury

Mark 6:45-52

Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray.

Later that night, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. Shortly before dawn he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, because they all saw him and were terrified.

Immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened.

When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Mk 6:45–56.

The Boat Was In the Middle

What are you stuck in the middle of in your life?

Your Troubles Do Not Have the Last Word

Are you...

- Straining?
- Struggling?
- Toiling?
- Laboring?
- Battered?
- Distressed?
- Terrified?
- In serious trouble?



If there is anyone who understands being in the middle, it's Jesus. In the middle of Pharisees and tax collectors and zealots, between those who yell 'hosana,' and those who yell, 'crucify him!'

And in the middle of it all, Jesus continually reminds us to keep our eyes and ears attuned to him.

And if we're not synced and tuned to Jesus, it will be ridiculously easy to get lost and out of tune. And don't worry! If you're out of tune, there is always an opportunity to get in tune.

When all is said and done, the last word is Immanuel, God with us.

Devise your strategy, but it will be thwarted;
propose your plan, but it will not stand,
for Immanuel [God is with us].

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Is 8:10.

The Force For You Is Greater Than The Force Against You

Who or what is pushing against you?

Jesus models what to do when all of life is pushing against us - Push back by finding a place to sit in silence and pray. Pray until something happens.

Jesus intends, not to pass you by and leave you all alone in your laboring distress, to abandon you in your strain, struggle, and trouble, but to show you a display of his deity and glory by observable evidence — that he's God.

And this message and glory is giving you a claim — that whatever claims to be over your head is actually under your feet. And both claims are fighting to convince you that they're true. If God is with you, the true claim will stand out.

The Secret That Changes Everything

Taking some time to be silent with Jesus has the power to change our perspective. When we have Jesus' kingdom perspective in mind, the massive struggles of life will not change, but we will see them as under our feet rather than over our head.

Jesus said he is the vine and we are the branches - abiding in him is the secret to having life and a kingdom perspective that will prevent anxiety from triumphing over us.



Who is Jesus and why does it matter? He is the secret to life and a true perspective, and it matters because he is inviting you to get in the boat with him.