

“He saw that they were in serious trouble, rowing hard and struggling against the wind and waves. About three o’clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. He intended to go past them,” Mark 6:48 NLT

lectio // Mark 6:45-56

Mark writes, “Jesus insisted they get back in the boat.” Rather than seeing this aggressive or assertive Jesus, I wonder if it’s really intentionality? He wanted them back in and across the lake. Then we find out there are horrible headwinds and the disciples are straining at the oars and struggling against the wind. It’s not a storm, it’s a struggle - AT 3 O’clock in the morning, the bewitching hour! And, if that’s not enough, Mark points out that Jesus SAW them laboring. Mark also points out the Jesus was “intending” on passing by. What? They see a “ghost” walking past them, into the wind, and they are freaked out. Jesus calms them, gets in the boat, and the wind stops. Mark writes, “they were amazed” then adds, “for they still didn’t understand the significance of the miracle of the loaves. Their hearts were too hard to take it in.” What is going on here? Is Jesus against them, making life and learning harder for them? I don’t think so. Are they really slow at understanding what God is up to and how Jesus goes about fulfilling his purpose at every possible moment? Yes, and they are just like us. What was the significance of the loaves? Did it take a horrific boat ride and being scared to death out on a lake to allow them to reflect on it? Sometimes God really wants us to learn something, right? What’s it take? I know in my life, I am really slow to get the point. First of all, it takes me forever to even clear my head of being angry, frustrated, or feeling like a victim. But then I have to learn from it? Yes.

oratio

Dad,

You are such a patient teacher with me. Even though I am stubborn and slow, you are gracious and faithful. I know, I know, I know - you have my best in mind. I know that you love me. I know that you are right, true and just. It is me that needs to learn. I need to learn when I see miracles and I don’t process what really happened. I need to learn when I am straining and struggling to get the other side of what you are “insisting” on. I need to slow down and lean into you, trusting you even in the bewitching times in life. Help me not only learn, but get to the destinations that you have intentionally set before me. Thank you!

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root