



THE GOSPEL *of*

MARK

Series on Mark

Chapter 6

- Rejected at Nazareth
- Sending out of the Disciples
- Death of John the Baptist
- 31-32 “And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat.”
- Feeding of the 5000

Situation for Jesus & Disciples

- * Crowds and Ministry Demands
 - surrounded by people and needs
- * Celebrity & Questions
 - important people & religious authorities
 - glass house, everything under scrutiny
- * Supernatural & Trying to Understand
 - parables, tests, trying to get what is going on
 - experiencing what makes no sense

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Walking on
Water

Mark 6:45-56

“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 on the mountain 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 making headway painfully, 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,

THE GOSPEL of **MARK**

Walking on
Water

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. Do not be afraid." 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. When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored to the shore. And when they got out of the boat, the people immediately recognized him

THE GOSPEL of **MARK**

Walking on
Water

and ran about the whole region and began to bring the sick people on their beds to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and implored him that they might touch even the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.”

- see also Matthew 14:22-33, John 6:16ff

1. Sending & Difficult Journeys

a) Immediately

- no debrief, don't worry about crowds
- take your 12 baskets and go, sent on ahead

b) Jesus Retreats

- solitude with the Father
- detail in John 6:15 "Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself."

c) painful headway

- conversation on the boat.....

*fishers of men – here we are in a boat again

* let's get away – more people & ministry

* go over there – stuck in a wind, tired

d) fourth watch of the night

- just before dawn – long day

2. Tipping Points & Panic

a) Don't miss Details

- saw them struggling (not unaware)
- walking out to them (power over nature)
- meant to pass them by (confusing detail)

b) Ghosts & Yelling

- panic – what is that
- fear – terrified, tipping point
- calling out – yelling out

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* Ever been there?

- culmination of stress in work & life
- demands everywhere you turned
- looking for a break – disappointment
- frustration with difficult journeys

* Tipping Point

- something sets you on tilt
- maybe in light of day could figure it out, but now it's just more than I need

3. The Voice and Assurance of Jesus

a) Spoke to Them

- heard his voice call out
- wait, that's Jesus, this makes more sense
- think of panic and a voice that resets you
- take heart

b) It is I

- heard me teach
- seen me calm the storm, heal the sick, cast out the demons

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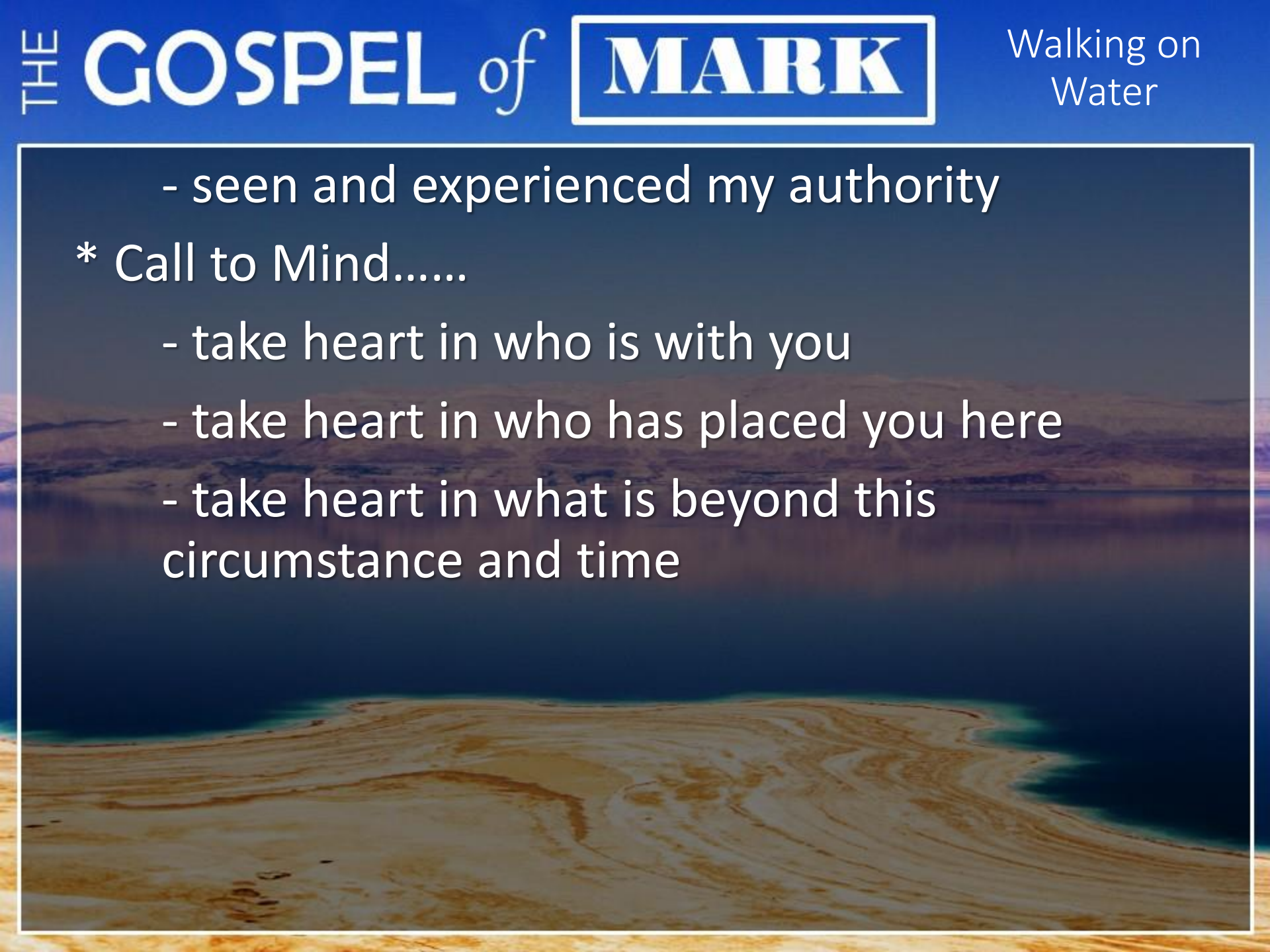
- seen and experienced my authority

* Call to Mind.....

- take heart in who is with you

- take heart in who has placed you here

- take heart in what is beyond this
circumstance and time



c) Do not be Afraid

- 366 times in Scripture in some form
- seems to be a choice.....
 - allow it to be consuming and a focus
 - work to put it in perspective
- fear.....
 - paralyzes, consumes, causes us to take matters into our own hands
 - prevents peace, blessings, participation

- make a choice based on perspective & truth
- 'opposite of faith not doubt but fear'

d) Presence and Peace

- Jesus in the boat
- with them, wind calms, progress

4. Amazed & Confused

- utterly astounded – hard to take in
- didn't understand – hearts hardened?

5. Ministry Goes On

- up most of the night
- recognized & surrounded
- healing & restoring those who come



So What?

1. Difficult Journeys

- a) following Jesus includes tired moments
 - need community & perspective here
- b) create space in busy seasons
 - more demands & pressure – time in prayer
- c) will have some panic moments – tipping points
 - what is this now..... ahhhhhhhhhhh!

2. Know the Voice & Person of Jesus

a) cultivate the relationship

- knowing the voice of Jesus (John 10)
- recount and Chronicle the work of Jesus
- hide the promises & word of Jesus in heart
- importance of testimony of others

b) take heart – It is I

- environments to hear & respond to this
- truth to stand on
- authority of Jesus over all

3. Take Fear Seriously

a) fear has a real effect in your life

- often rooted in the what if, can't trust that...

b) choice that rests in our response

- where do we turn, take our fear?

4. Presence of Jesus & Peace

- ok to be astounded and confused together

5. Don't miss those encountering, being healed