

## Taking It Home:

- In what way might the phrase “crisis often keeps our ambitions in check” prove helpful to you as you process difficulty in your own life?
  
- Pastor Matthew suggests that prayer relates to affirming God’s mission in our lives, confirming God as the majestic and almighty Sovereign, and praising God for his goodness. With these in mind, in what way might you strengthen your communication with God through prayer? Be as practical as possible.
  
- Is there any hardness in your heart that you need to confess to God? Be very specific. Take time and talk with him about this as honestly and thoroughly as you can. Remember the precious truth of 1 John 1:9 and Romans 8:1.

Piercing the Darkness  
The Wind and the Waves  
Mark 6:45:52

Dr. Matthew R. St. John  
Bethel Church  
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## The Wind and the Waves

Notes:

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew’s sermon points, visit [pastormatthew.net](http://pastormatthew.net) and click on the “Write This Down” tab.

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit [www.bethelcf.com](http://www.bethelcf.com).

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of November 17, 2013

Mark 6:45-52

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**Quick Review:** Following the monumental experience in which Jesus fed thousands upon thousands of people with a small sack lunch, the disciples were likely spinning dreams of glory and ambition, a clear departure from what ought to be the spirit of a faithful Jesus-follower. With this in mind, Jesus orchestrates a crisis in which to redirect the disciples' thinking.

## My Story:

- Every one of us has moments when we spin grandiose ideas about our own glory or honor or position or status. Sometimes these are influenced by positive experiences, the momentum of which gets the best of us. Are there any of these moments that you would be willing to share? What got you there? As you look back on that time, what have you learned about yourself?
- Just like we all have moments in which we dream of glory, we also all have seasons of crisis. Can you think of a time when you were stretched to your own limits, nearly to the point of snapping in two? What got you there? How did you cope with it?
- C. S. Lewis once wrote, "We can ignore even pleasure. But pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world." With that quote in mind, and with the story from Mark 6:45-52 in mind, how comfortable are you with the idea that God might orchestrate crises in our lives to redirect us toward his best interests for us?

## Growing Deeper:

- John 6:15 tells us that when Jesus has fed the 5,000 men, the crowd began plotting to "take Jesus by force to make him king." Jesus' response was to send his disciples away and withdraw by himself to a mountain to pray. With that background information in mind, what did Pastor Matthew suggest might be a couple of the primary reasons that Jesus would choose to pray?
- Embedded within the Mark 6:45-52 account are two very strong allusions to the deity of Jesus Christ (and this contrary to the common view that the Bible never refers to Jesus as God). One of those is found within the words "He meant to pass by them," in verse 48. Take some time and read Exodus 33:17-23. What parallels do you see between the Exodus passage and the account in Mark?
- A second allusion to the deity of Jesus Christ is contained within Jesus' statement in Mark 6:50, "Take heart; it is I." What did Pastor Matthew say was being suggested in this seemingly simple phrase?
- By feeding the 5,000 men plus women and children, Jesus echoed the way God fed the Israelites in the wilderness when they left the land of Egypt thousands of years earlier. By meaning to pass by the disciples while they were on the boat, Jesus echoed the way God passed by Moses and displayed his glory (see Exodus 33:19). By using the phrase "it is I," Jesus echoed God's self-disclosure as the "I am who I am" as recorded in Exodus 3:14. By making the winds cease (Mark 6:51) Jesus does what God does in making the "storm be still" (cp. Psalm 107:29). Clearly, Jesus displays his deity. That said, why would the disciples have had a hardened heart, as recorded in Mark 6:52? In the face of God's glory, is your heart ever hardened? Why, and what might be done about that?