

SERIES: GETTING TO KNOW JESUS

SUBJECT: WHAT IT MEANS TO TRUST IN JESUS

SCRIPTURE: MARK 6:30-52

SERMON NO. 14

Introduction

Trust means asking Jesus to get in the boat of our lives, and allowing His power to handle whatever situation we find ourselves in.

This message isn't just for the disciples of the first century...It's also instructions for us as well.

I. TRUST CONSIST OF TWO BASIC TRAINING COURSES.

1. Training on learning by doing. (Mark 6:12-13). *And they went out, and preached that men should repent. 13 And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.*

a) The twelve disciples received on the job training. They preached repentance and drove out demonic influences from people's bodies, not of themselves but through God's power working through them. Through God's power people were healed who were sick and diseased. Let us not miss the point here.. the disciples were relaying, not on themselves but on the power of God working through them in performing these miracles.

They were accountable to Jesus for their ministry. (30). *They gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught.* Every child of God is accountable for what we do, what we believe, and what we teach.

2. Training on learning by resting. (31-41). *And he said unto them, come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while; for there were many coming and going, and*

they had no leisure so much as to eat. Jesus instructs his disciples that in order for them to be effective in ministry they need to come aside and rest for awhile. Rest is so important if the body is to function.

a) Lack of rest affects one's thinking. (32-36). 32 And they departed into a desert place by ship privately. 33 And the people saw them departing, and many knew him, and ran afoot thither out of all cities, and outwent them, and came together unto him. 34 Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things. 35 And when the day was far spent, his disciples came unto him, and said, This is a desert place, and now the time is far spent. 36 Send them away, that they may go into the country round about, and into the villages, and buy themselves bread: for they have nothing to eat.

b) Jesus surprises them with his response. (37a). Give ye them to eat. The disciples couldn't believe what Jesus was saying! **(37b)** They say unto him, Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat? (A pennyworth amounted to a days wage back then. Today this would be about \$100.00 a day. Jesus asked, "what do you have?" So, after hunting around they came back and said, "We've got 5 small loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus said, "Bring me what you have." After Jesus asked a blessing on the meal, He instructed the disciples to have the people sit in groups of 50-100, and then distribute the food.

c) The incredible miracle (42-43). And they did all eat, and were filled. And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes. That was an incredible miracle. In fact, it is so incredible that liberal theologians who do not believe in miracles, point to this feeding of the huge crowd as one of the reasons they don't believe in miracles-it's just too difficult to believe. Feed that many people with such a small amount of food is not humanly possible. That's the point. With man something like this is impossible, but with a supernatural, all-powerful God, it is very possible.

d) Jesus was showing His disciples and us, that He is God. This miracle wasn't for the benefit of the crowd, it was for the disciples' benefit. Jesus was showing all His followers that no matter what the problem or difficulty or roadblock that may come your way, He is able to take care of it. Jesus was teaching them, that He is trustworthy!

II. PASSING OR FAILING THE TRAINING COURSE. (45-46). And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people. 46 And when he had sent them away, he he departed into a mountain to pray.

1. The love of Jesus. Jesus prayed for the disciples and how they'd do on this test He was giving them. Not only did Jesus pray for His disciples when their faith was going to be tested, but He does the same thing for us, as we go through the trials and tests of our lives. *That's what the writer to Hebrews is talking about in...*

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

That's what Jesus is doing for each one of us, individually right now. He is praying to God, and asking the Holy Spirit to help us remember all the things we have been taught from God's Word, and to give us the grace to be able to apply those teachings and principles to our personal times of testing that we constantly face. Jesus is on a mountainside in heaven right now, praying for you.

2. Now the test begins (47-48a). And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land. 48 And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the forth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea.. and would have passed by them.

Illustrate: The distance to the far shore was about 5 miles. The disciples left the shore shortly after lunch time. Almost immediately the wind picked up. And it was so strong that over the next 14 hours, they could only manage to row less than 3 miles. Can you

imagine the gale force of that wind? Twelve guys pulling on the oars of their boat, and bailing water, and yet they only got about 2 ½ miles from shore. And the wind wasn't letting up!

Now, let me ask you a question. Knowing what you know about the power of Jesus Christ, how long would you have tried to row before you asked for help?

The disciples had just finished being trained in TRUST. But like so many of us, they proceeded to forget everything they had been taught. They still insisted on pulling on the oars themselves." We got ourselves into this mess, and we can get ourselves out of it." Fourteen hours and they only went 2 ½ miles. They were in trouble, yet they failed to put their trust in the person who could pull them through. They failed to call out to Jesus for help.

Well, seeing the problem, Jesus came down from the mountainside and walked over to the boat. That's right, He walked right on top of the water, 2 ½ miles to where the disciples were struggling at 4 o'clock in the morning.

a) They failed the test. Instead of seeing Jesus for who He was, they thought of Him in human terms. God is the only one who can do what Jesus did, walk on water. Jesus was showing the disciples that He was God. The wind and the waves were at His command. They didn't have to be afraid, or struggle with this difficult situation. All they had to do was trust in the power of Jesus to calm the storm. But instead, they screamed in terror.

3. Jesus seized this moment of failure and used it to re-teach the disciples the things that they had missed. (50b). Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. Three of the shortest sentences in the Bible, yet the three most important things for us to learn from TRUST. What do we do when things get tough? How should we react when we go through difficult times? Three things: Be of good cheer! It is I! Be not afraid!

1. Be of good cheer. (courage). This is a command! We can either obey the command, or we can disobey it and continue doing what we please, when difficult times come into our lives.

2. It is I. Jesus is as close as the person sitting next to you right now. He is standing in the stormy ocean of your life, making Himself available to help you. And don't ever forget that Jesus is God. if God isn't able to take care of anything that may crop up in your life, then He's not much of a God, and you might as well stop wasting your time by coming to church.

3. Be not afraid. Don't run away from the problems you face. Don't let them get to you. Face them in My power."

Conclusion

Know that the power of God is strong enough to handle anything that comes into your life. **(51) And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered.** Now we come right back to that marvelous truth we discovered in chapter four, when the disciples faced another storm on this same lake...

When Jesus is in the boat, the boat won't sink and the storm won't last forever.

But Jesus never forces His way into our boats. He only comes by invitation. But He first must get in the boat in order to help. Don't keep Him out. Don't fail TRUST in Him. Take courage. It is I. Don't be afraid.