

# MESSAGE

Occasion : Morning Worship  
Date : May 22, 2011 / May 26, 2013 / April 28, 2019  
  
TITLE : GOD'S PURPOSE FOR US  
Text/s :

## Mark 6:45-52

45 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 departed into a mountain to pray.  
47 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 fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.  
49 But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out:  
50 For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.  
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.  
52 For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened.

## Matt 14:22-32

22 And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.  
23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.  
24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.  
25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.  
26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.  
27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.  
28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.  
29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.  
30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.  
31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?  
32 And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.

## John 6:16-21

16 And when even was now come, his disciples went down unto the sea,  
17 And entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was now dark, and Jesus was not come to them.  
18 And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew.  
19 So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid.  
20 But he saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid.  
21 Then they willingly received him into the ship: and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went

Bible Reading :

## Ps 107:23-30

23 They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters;  
24 These see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep.  
25 For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof.  
26 They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble.  
27 They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end.  
28 Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he bringeth them

out of their distresses.

29 He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still.

30 Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven.

KJV

Song/s :

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## INTRODUCTION

### A) The setting

The place was Tiberias (John 6:23).

John 6:23

23 (Howbeit there came other boats from Tiberias nigh unto the place where they did eat bread, after that the Lord had given thanks:)

KJV

John 6:1

6 After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias.

KJV

It was only after a great miracle, the feeding of the 5,000 men.

Matt 14:14-24

14 And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.

15 And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals.

16 But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat.

17 And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes.

18 He said, Bring them hither to me.

19 And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

20 And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.

21 And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children.

22 And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.

23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.

KJV

Mark 6:45-46

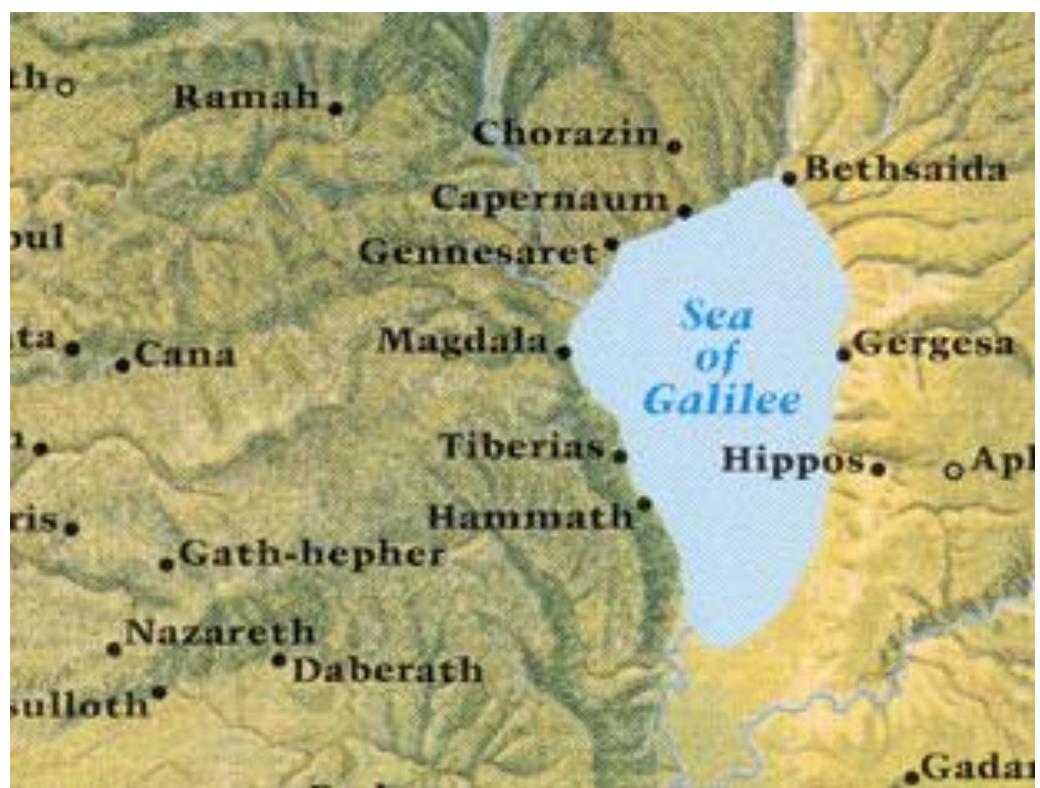
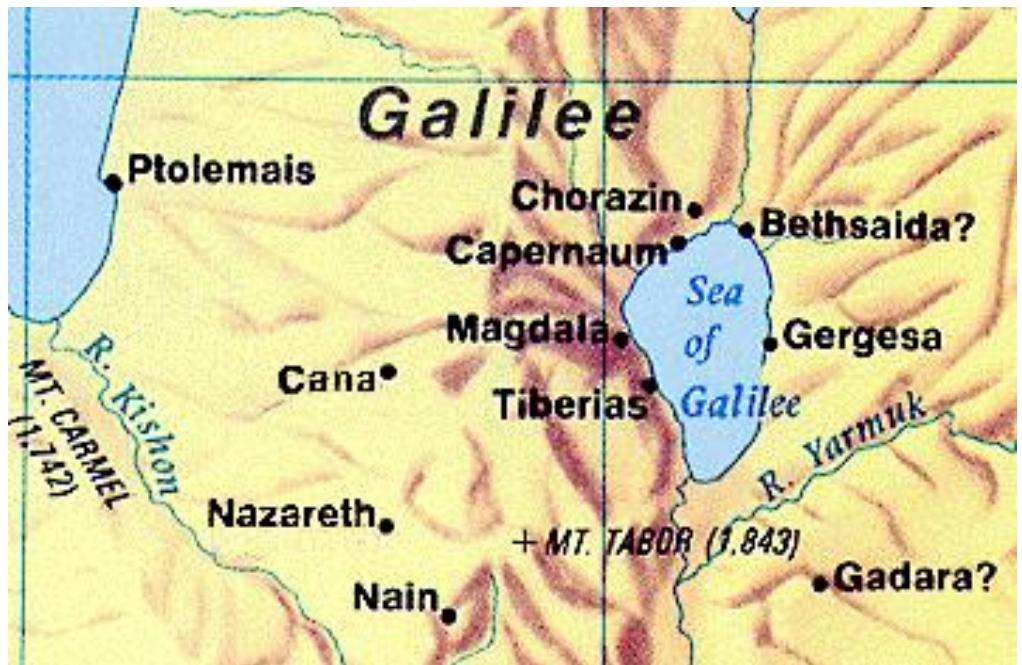
45 And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people.

46 And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray.

KJV

Even before this event, the Lord had shown the disciples his power through many miracles. In fact, this was towards the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the ministry of Christ. By now, the disciples would have seen many glorious and wondrous working,.enough for them to have a stable trust on Him, enough to return a an sincere and undoubted obedience.

Across the Sea of Galilee was some 7 to 10 miles of travel. Towards the fourth watch (3-6AM), they were just about 6 kms from where they started. The wind was contrary and the waves were high. Christ was not with them.



- B) The Lord constrained them to go across towards Bethsaida

Mark 6:45-51

45 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 departed into a mountain to pray.  
47 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 fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.  
49 But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out:  
50 For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.  
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Matt 14:22-33

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23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.  
24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.  
25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.  
26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.  
27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.  
28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.  
29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.  
30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.  
31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?  
32 And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.  
33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.  
KJV

John 6:16-21

16 Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea,  
17 got into the boat, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was already dark, and Jesus had not come to them.  
18 Then the sea arose because a great wind was blowing.  
19 So when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid.  
20 But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid."  
21 Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going.  
NKJV

Note:

In the midst of their condition,

- when Christ was not with them,
- they had been rowing for more than 9 hours and it seems all their efforts seem futile
- the night was getting even darker
- the wind of the world was contrary
  - They lost their sense of purpose.
  - They lost understanding of the Lord's will.
  - They lost their sense of trust and progress. They became fearful.
  - They lost their sense of recognition.

But when Christ came, all the emptiness became enrichment...

- His Words became their cheer

- They overcame fear
- The wind ceased
- They were sore amazed beyond measure and were filled wondered
- They worshipped
- They reached the shore immediately
- There was enrichment

- Enrichment in the heart
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**There are several reactions we have when we obey God.**

- 1) We think that when God paves the way for us, then He sets for us a clear purpose and that to reach the other side.
- 2) We imagine that when He constrains and we obey, He leads us to great success.  
In such an instance, we put our dreams of success in our lives as God's purpose for us.
- 3) We imagine that when we obey, God begins to owe us something, enough for us to demand and put condition on Him. Luke 17:10, "So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do."
- 4) We imagine that when we obey, God should pave for us a smooth passage. But in the text:
  - The wind (world) was boisterous against them. The sea was high, the wind was contrary.
  - The Lord was at a distance
  - When He came, he came at the fourth watch (3-6AM)
  - When He walked, "He would have passed by them."

Charles Spurgeon writes:

Changeful experience often leads the anxious believer to enquire "Why is it thus with me?" I looked for light, but lo, darkness came; for peace, but behold trouble. I said in my heart, my mountain standeth firm, I shall never be moved. Lord, thou dost hide Thy face, and I am troubled. It was but yesterday that I could read my title clear; to-day my evidences are bedimmed, and my hopes are clouded. Yesterday I could climb to Pisgah's top, and view the landscape o'er, and rejoice with confidence in my future inheritance; to-day, my spirit has no hopes, but many fears; no joys, but much distress. **Is this part of God's plan with me? Can this be the way in which God would bring me to heaven?** Yes, it is even so. The eclipse of your faith, the darkness of your mind, the fainting of your hope, all these things are but parts of God's method of making you ripe for the great inheritance upon which you shall soon enter. These trials are for the testing and strengthening of your faith—they are waves that wash you further upon the rock—they are winds which waft your ship the more swiftly towards the desired haven. According to David's words, so it might be said of you, "so He bringeth them to their desired haven." By honour and dishonour, by evil report and by good report, by plenty and by poverty, by joy and by distress, by persecution and by peace, by all these things is the life of your souls maintained, and by each of these are you helped on your way. Oh, think not, believer, that your sorrows are out of God's plan; they are necessary parts of it. "We must, through much tribulation, enter the kingdom." Learn, then, even to "count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations."

"O let my trembling soul be still,  
And wait Thy wise, Thy holy will!  
I cannot, Lord, Thy purpose see,  
Yet all is well since ruled by Thee."

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Ps 107:7

7 And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation.  
KJV

2 Cor 6:4-10

4 But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,  
5 In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;  
6 By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,  
7 By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,  
8 By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true;  
9 As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed;  
10 As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.  
KJV

#### James 1:2-4

2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;  
3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

#### Acts 14:21-22

21 And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,  
22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.  
KJV4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.  
KJV

#### Acts 14:21-22

21 And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,  
22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

KJV

### C) God's purpose

- 1) His purpose for us is not our dreams of success. It is the opposite. He is not leading us to a particular, desired goal of ours. The particular end is a mere incident. His end for us is the process. It is the process, not the end which is glorifying to God.
- 2) His purpose is that we depend on Him and on His power now. If I can stay in the middle of the turmoil calm and unperplexed, unmoved, that is the end of God's purpose. His end is the process...that I see Him walking on the waves, no shore in sight, no success, no goal. Just the absolute certainty that it is alright because I see Him walking on the sea.
- 3) His purpose is now, this very minute...not something in the future. We have nothing to do with the afterwards of obedience. We have no right to demand, we have no right to obliged Him to favor us.
  - a) In salvation  
This very minute. He wants you to be saved. It is His purpose for you now.  
2 Cor 6:2, "...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."
  - b) In holiness  
Rom 6:19. "I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness."
  - c) In service  
Rom 13:11, "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. (KJV)
  - d) In living  
Gal 2:20. "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (KJV)
  - e) In giving  
2 Cor 8:11 "Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have.
  - f) In glorying Christ

Phil 1:20, "According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. (KJV)

g) In putting off sins

Col 3:8-9, "But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

h) In offering of ourselves

2 Tim 4:6, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. (KJV)

#### It is now that counts

Rom 13:11-14, "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

God's end is to enable us to see that He can walk on the chaos of our lives just now. If we have a further end in view, we do not pay sufficient attention to the immediate present: if we realize that obedience is the end, then each moment as it comes is precious.

I can even imagine Peter. His story wasn't at all about reaching Bethsaida. It was about his experience that when he looked at Jesus, he walked on the water.