

## How To Be Courageous Mark 6:45-52

### Courage When Facing An Impossible Task Mark 6:35-44

#### Let me ask you a few questions:

- Do you ever look at the situations you face in life and become afraid and full of doubt?
- Do you look at a lost family member and wonder if they will ever be saved?
- Do you ever look at a physical need and wonder if it will be all right or if it will lead to something worse?
- Are you ever afraid to open the mail box because it might contain another bill?
- Are you ever afraid to answer the phone because it might be a bill collector?
- Do you ever scan the days of your life and wonder how much time you have left?
- Do you ever look at the condition of the world and become afraid, wondering how it will all turn out?
- What I am asking is this: Do you ever have fears?

We all do! Being afraid of the unknown is part of living in this world. Having doubts and concerns is nothing to be ashamed of; it is something we all deal with. The problem arises when we become like the disciples.

That is the same attitude the ten spies had when they went into Canaan and saw giants there. (Ill. Num. 13:32-33) It was an attitude that said, *“I don’t care Who God is; He isn’t that big!”*

Regardless of the fears you may have today, they are little when they are placed next to the Lord. If He can create the universe out of nothing; surely He can meet your need! If He can keep Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego through the fiery furnace, He can take care of you! If He can secure Daniel in the lion’s den, He can take care of you! If He can feed three million Jews in the desert for forty years, He can take care of you! If He can defeat sin, death, Hell, the grave and Satan using an old rugged cross and an empty tomb, He can take care of you! If He can save you from your sins, He can take care of you!

This command is immediately met with an expression of absolute unbelief. From John’s Gospel, we know that Philip is the one who speaks, **John 6:7**. He says, *“Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.”*

A “penny” refers to the “denarius”, which was a day’s wages for the average worker. It would have taken the average worker eight months to earn the amount of money Philip is talking about. In modern terms it was about \$10,000.00. It was more money than they had and more than could ever hope to collect on short notice.

Philip is saying, *“Lord, even if we had \$10,000.00 we couldn’t satisfy all these people. We couldn’t even give them all a taste. It’s impossible!”*

The words “*brake*” and “*gave*” are important. They indicate that “*He kept on breaking and He kept on giving*”. Jesus took those little biscuits and sardines and they were multiplied in His hands. He just kept on breaking them and giving them to His disciples and the loaves and fish kept on multiplying. Jesus exercised creative power to accomplish this miracle.

To feed five thousand men plus women and children, **Matt. 14:21**, it would have required them to empty their baskets and return to Jesus for refills. Every time they came back, they probably expected to find that Jesus has run out of food. But, He never did!

He kept breaking and giving until every person in the crowd had no more desire for food. And, when the disciples took of the leftovers, there were twelve baskets full. One for every doubting disciple!

Jesus just took what was available and multiplied it for His glory! When we give what we have to Him, He will amaze us with what He can do with it! When this situation arose, the question from Jesus was, “*How are we going to handle this*”, **John 6:5**. There were four responses to that questions:

1. *Let's get rid of the problem* - **Mark 6:35-36; Matt. 15:23**
2. *Let's raise more money* - **John 6:7**
3. *We have a little, but it will never be enough* - **John 6:5**
4. *Let Jesus have it* - **John 6:11**

If you can ever learn to bring your little to Jesus and let Him have it, He can use it in a great way for His glory!

- Bring your little faith to Him and watch Him move your mountains.
- Bring your little testimony and watch Him save souls.
- Bring your little praise and watch Him get glory.
- Bring your little abilities to Him and watch Him use you. He specializes in using the small thing to amaze men and to reveal His glory, **1 Cor. 1:27-29!**
  - He used the cry of a little baby to bring peace to Abraham.
  - He used a little stick in the hand of Moses to part the Red Sea and deliver His people from Pharaoh.
  - He used a little boy named David who slung a little stone to remove a big giant.
  - He used a little piece of bread called Manna to feed His people for forty years.
  - He used a little leather mantle to part the Jordan River for Elijah and Elisha.
  - He used a little widow with a little meal and a little oil to take care of the man of God.
  - He used a little girl name Mary to bring a little baby into the world, Who would grow up and die on a little cross on a little hill in a little country called Israel. But, in His death, He would provide salvation to all who will receive Him!
  - Who knows what He will do with your little if you can just get it into His hands!

#### **Courage When Facing A Deadly Threat Mark 6:45-52**

There is a great word of comfort here for those going through one of the storms of life. As we have all heard, you are in one of three places in your life today. You are either in a storm, coming out of a storm or headed into a storm.

There are physical storms, mental storms, emotional storms and spiritual storms. There are storms in homes, marriages, at work and at church. There are storms that rage publically and there are storms that manifest themselves in the secret places of the heart.

Storms are part of our human existence, **Job 14:1, Eccl. 2:23**. Storms touch every part of our lives. We all find ourselves in stormy situations from time to time

**How He Saved Them** – Jesus didn't just send these men out there to die in that storm. And, He didn't just watch from a safe distance while they struggled. Jesus took an active part in their rescue. Notice how the Lord Jesus ministered to His men on that stormy sea.

**1. His Presence v. 48**

**2. His Peace v. 49-50**

**3. His Power v. 51**

These men had all evidence they needed to believe that Jesus was Who He claimed to be, yet eleven of them did not fully comprehend Who Jesus was until He had died on the cross and rose again from the dead. One of their number, Judas, never did get it and he died lost in his sins.

Even without this miracle, His men should have known Who Jesus was. Consider what they had already seen:

- They had seen Him cast out demons – **Mark 1:23-26; 1:32; 5:1-20.**
- They had seen Him heal all manner of diseases – **Mark 1:29-32; 1:40-45; 2:1-12; 3:1-5; 5:24-34; 6:5.**
- They had seen Him calm a storm – **Mark 4:37-41.**
- They had seen Him raise a girl from the dead – **Mark 5:21-43.**
- They had seen Him use them in an amazing way – **Mark 6:7-13; 30.**
- They had seen Him feed thousands with an extremely small amount of food – **Mark 6:35-44.**

Jesus had given these men an extensive, intensive lesson in His power and ability, but they never quite got it. In spite of all they had seen Him do, still they doubted His power and they doubted His ability to handle the next situation.