**Text: Mark 6:45-52**

**Subject: God’s Got His Eyes On You!**

 In our text we find the Lord Jesus Christ and His disciples who had just got finished feeding 5,000 people with 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread; and I am sure that was physically as well as, mentally and spiritually exhausting.

 I guess if I could use my spiritual imagination and contemporize what The Lord Jesus might have been thinking, I imagine that He might have been saying to Himself, “I think it’s time to get away.” So, that’s exactly what He did.

 He put the disciples on a boat and sent them on a journey to go on the other side of the Sea of Galilee to Bethsaida, and then He went up to the mountains to pray and be restored after such an exhausting experience.

I guess we could say that the Lord Jesus “physically distanced” Himself from the disciples so that He could get His mind; His body; and His Spirit Man back in tack.

And while He was doing so, the disciples found themselves rowing for 8 miles, from west to east, against a current flowing from the River Jordan, which flowed into the Sea of Galilee, from North to South.

What that means is that even on a good and calm day, crossing the Sea of Galilee would have been a challenging task, because of the fairly strong under current flowing like a river, underneath the surface of the water. Therefore, we can only guess how difficult it may have been for the disciples to make progress in rowing across in a violent storm.

To add insult to injury, we can infer from our text that the disciples must have started their journey close to dusk because they and the Lord Jesus had fed 5,000 people fish and bread all day—and our text says that “immediately He made the disciples to get into the boat and go to the other side.”

Also, our text tells that after the crowds of people finally left, evening had come and the Lord Jesus was finally alone. O, you know how family is when someone has a cookout.

We love to see everybody. We love to eat. We love to talk and play games and just catch up with family members we haven’t seen in a while. But, what we don’t like to do, is go home because we just love to be around each other. And let me say, that’s not a bad thing, it’s just “a thing” and as a result, it takes a while for the cookout to end because of all the love that we don’t want to leave away from.

So it must have been for those who attended the fish fry cookout. I’m sure it took a while to get the crowd to dissipate so that the Lord Jesus could get some rest. And our text tells us that this occurred when evening came.

And as evening came, the disciples were out on the boat. Now, it usually starts getting dark around 8:30 pm or so. In fact, according to the app on my phone, I believe sunset tonight will be at 8:35 pm. This is significant because that means the disciples were rowing through a challenging and difficult body of water when it was pitch black dark outside.

They did not have flashlights on their cell phones and even if they had fire lit lanterns, they most likely would have been blown out by the tumultuous wind, or would have been doused by the waves hitting against the small boat that they were in.

So not only was their journey physically challenging, it was also mentally challenging because they were in the middle of a violent storm that blew a wind that was contrary to them. In the ESV, it says that they were painfully making headway. And in the King James, it says that they were toiling which in the Greek, means they were struggling and that they were distressed.

Let’s put this together. The disciples were rowing 8 miles across the Sea of Galilee in the pitch black in the middle of a violent storm. Not only that but they had also been rowing for a long time while seemingly not making any real progress.

We can surmise this because our text tells us that they set sail close to evening but it wasn’t until the 4th watch of the night until that the Lord Jesus Christ came walking on the water to save them from the dark and difficult time that they were going through.

What that means is that it is possible that they had been rowing from 8:30 pm to any where around 3 to 6 am. Therefore, at a minimum, the disciples were rowing through a storm for close to seven hours which must have seemed like an eternity in the midst of a tumultuous storm.

So it is with us. Many of us feel like the disciples must have felt because we too are going through a some very dark and difficult times in our lives right now. I say this because this COVID-19 situation does not seem to be getting any better on a National level even though the numbers seem to be getting better in this area. However, in areas close to us, like West Virginia, Delaware, and North Carolina, the numbers are going up just as they are in states that chose to not follow CDC guidelines.

As a result, we feel like we’ve been rowing through this difficult situation for a long time and it doesn’t seem like the storm is going to be over any time soon. At the same time, we have been wading through the some very rough waters for the past 3 ½ years where each day just seems to be getting more and more wicked and diabolical.

The economy is getting worse. Race relations are getting worse. Peoples’ mental health is getting worse—as a result, it seems like our lives are getting worse as each day goes by.

Here, the real tragedy is, because it has been going on so long, too many people are starting to lose their faith in God because it seems like God is not paying attention to the troubles and the intense struggles that we are all going through.

The unfortunate truth of the matter is, people may be losing their faith because we have either taken our eyes off of God, or we believe that God has taken His eyes off of us, or we just don’t understand why God would allow for us to go through such a tough time for such a long time and therefore, many are wrought with fear, doubt and worry.

So it was with the disciples in our text. It appears that they too had all but lost their faith for some of the same reasons. First, we can surmise that they had lost some faith because in verse 52, it says that their hearts were hardened because they did not understand about what had just happened before they got on the boat.

In other words, they did not understand that what they had just witnessed when the Lord Jesus Christ fed 5,ooo people with 2 fish and 5 loaves was a miracle. And if He could perform a miracle of that magnitude at the time, then He could perform a miracle at any time and in any situation.

However, because they were distracted by their dire circumstances, they could not begin to focus on the miracles that they had just witnessed. And let me just say, that is by design because the enemy specializes in distortions and distractions so that we will take our focus off of the things that God has already done and the things that God has already promised.

And that’s exactly what the disciples did. They got so distracted by their situation that they took their eyes off of God. And when they took their eyes off of God, then the enemy easily caused them to believe that God had taken His eyes of them, and that they were doomed because of their dire circumstances.

However, what I want to tell you today is that—that is a lie from the pit of hell—because God never takes His eyes off us even during these very contrary times that we are living through right now.

We know this because, as we consider the disciples, they were toiling and rowing through a violent storm, in the pitch black dark of the night, for at least 7 hours, where they had come too far to turn around, and they still had a long way to go.

However, even though they gotten to the darkest, and most difficult part of their journey, our text tells us, in verse 48 that the Lord Jesus still “saw them” toiling and trying to make headway in the midst of the contrary wind that was blowing against them.

Now, let’s do some math here because in verse 47 it says, it was evening and the boat was out on the sea. Then, in verse 48, it says He “saw them” toiling through some tough times. What this could mean is that even though He saw them around 8:30 in the evening, He did not take action until 3 to 6 o’clock in the morning.

What that means is that even though He saw them, He did not take action for at least 7 hours. However, no matter how long it took Him to take action, He never took His eyes off of them.

So it is with us. God has not taken His eyes off of us during these tough times that we are going through. It might seem like it because things have gotten so bad.

Now, we should be confident in this because God is no respecter of persons. And if He kept His eyes on the disciples rowing 4 miles away, in the midst of their trials and tribulations then that means He will keep His eyes on us in the midst of our trials and tribulations.

We should also be confident in this because God said so, over and over, in the Word of God.

First, God said it in Proverbs 15:3 when He said, *the eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.*

Let’s pause here for a minute because what that means is that God is aware of everything going on in our lives.

He sees the good things that people are doing to try to bring an end to COVID-19.

He sees the good law enforcement officers who get up each and every day and do the jobs of serving and protecting the citizens that they swore to protect and serve.

He sees white and black people who are working hard to end racism and colorism in America and around the world.

And He sees what we are going through, each and every day as we muddle and struggle through the rough and tough times that we are going through.

At the same time, He sees the wickedness being carried out behind closed doors and in peoples’ hearts.

We further know this because He said in 1 Samuel 16:7, *for the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.*

What this means is that God’s eyes are in every place and is keeping watch over everything including what’s going on in our hearts. This is important to know today because God is not mocked at the cunningness, trickery and wicked agendas that some people hold in their hearts.

This is true even if people hold high positions as world leaders, leaders in the community; or even leaders in the church. God’s Eyes are always upon our hearts which He knows what’s really going on, even if we don’t. This should give us comfort today especially now that it seems that wickedness is winning over righteousness.

However, what we should know is that wickedness may think it’s winning but God always has the final say; and God will always win. Therefore, fret not yourself because of evil doers; and be not envious of wrongdoers; for they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.

We should fret not because God Got His Eyes On Us!

Now, I know nobody likes to feel like somebody’s got their eyes on us. However, this is really a good thing especially if we are walking with the Lord.

We know this because God said in 2 Chronicles 16:9 says *“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward Him.”*

Then, in 1 Peter 3:12, He said, “*for the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are upon unto our cry.”*

In Psalm 17:8, King David said, *"keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings, from the wicked who do me violence, my deadly enemies who surround me.”*

What this means is that because God’s Got His Eyes On Us, He will see us through whatever we are going through.

It also means that with His eyes fixed on us, He will give us the support that we need when we are in the heat of battle.

This kind of reminds me of some of those old war movies where the soldiers and marines would be surrounded by the enemy. And then, when it really got bad, someone would get on the little back pack telephone and give the coordinates of where the enemy was located.

Then, all of a sudden, some airplanes, flying high above, would come screeching through the air, and would then give strong support to the soldiers who were pinned down on the battlefield.

This was made possible because the air force knew where the enemy was located and also where the soldiers were located, and as a result, they were able to take proper action, even if it took them a while to get there.

So it is with God. Even though we might be pinned down taking heavy fire by the enemy; and even though we might be in the midst of a violent storm, God’s Still Got His Eyes On Us.

That means He knows where we are at all times, and He knows where the enemy is, and because of that, He knows what to do, and when and where to do it.

So it was with the disciples.

There they were—pinned down violent storm in the pitch black of the night, four miles from either shore.

However, even though it took a long time for God to respond tom their cries, The Lord Jesus Christ never took His eyes off of them.

He saw them struggling.

And He saw them toiling but not really getting anywhere.

But, at the 4th watch of the night, when all hope seemed to be lost, and when they were afraid,

The Lord Jesus started walking on the water towards them because He knew where they were.

Church, they were not lost.

And they were not doomed.

Instead, because God Had His Eyes On Them the whole time,

They got were saved.

Now, at first, they didn’t recognize Him, as they thought they had seen a ghost.

Nevertheless, that didn’t matter because God recognized them.

And if He recognized them, then that means that God recognizes us, even if we don’t recognize Him.

He sees us, because He’s Got His Eyes On Us!

He sees our trials!

And He see our tribulations!

He sees our fears!

And He sees our frustrations!

And at the same time, He knows right where we are!

And just like the Lord Jesus came walking on water for them, He will come walking on water for us.

So, don’t take your eyes off of Jesus because Jesus will never take His eyes off of you because you are the apple of His eye.

God’s Got His Eyes On You!

And that’s all you need to know!

Amen!