

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of February 14, 2016

This Week's Focus: Jesus is the great "I am" whose very presence is enough to calm the storms and relieve the fears of everyone who believes in him.

This Week's Text: John 6:16-21

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.
Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never failing skill
He treasures up His bright designs
And works His sovereign will.
Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy and shall break
In blessings on your head.

William Cowper, from "God Moves in a Mysterious Way"

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What are your general impressions about this week's sermon?
- What is the immediate context of the passage? What transpired just before verses 16-21?
- According to Mark 6:45, Jesus "made his disciples get into the boat." Why did Jesus compel them to proceed across the sea? Do you think they were tempted like the crowds to make Jesus king? Why did Jesus forbid a kingly coronation?
- Why didn't Jesus get into the boat with his disciples? Where did he go instead? Reference verse 15 and Mark 6:46.

- Did Jesus intentionally send the disciples into the storm? How does the darkness of the storm also point to our spiritual condition apart from Jesus? Reference Psalm 42:7, Psalm 69:1-2. Have you experienced these conditions in your life? Why does God sometimes send us into times of turbulence and adversity?
- How did Jesus calm the disciples' fears? What is significant about the words Jesus used: "It is I" or literally, "I am"? How have you experienced the calming presence of Jesus in your life?
- What do you think John means by his phrase "immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going"?
- Discuss how both the feeding of the 5,000 and Jesus' walking on water fit John's Passover motif. How is Jesus the true and better Moses who prayed for manna and led the Israelites through the parted Red Sea? Read Psalm 77:16-19. Is Jesus your all satisfying bread of life on whom you can depend to calm the raging storms in your life?
- How does the passage encourage you to declare and demonstrate the gospel in your community and spheres of influence?