

John 19 – Jesus Is God of Man and Creation

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John 6:16-21

Order of Events

- Overview of events
 - Jesus feeds the crowd who want to make Him king
 - He sends the apostles to Bethsaida at night in a boat
 - He ascends alone up a mount to pray
 - Storm and Jesus overtake the apostles on the Sea
 - Jesus calms them, Peter walks on water but faith fails
 - Jesus comes into the boat; storm abruptly stops and they are immediately at Bethsaida

Power Over Creation God's Purview

- God has indicated His chosen leaders through His power over water
 - Moses - Parted Reed Sea destroying Pharaoh's chariots (Ex 14)
 - Joshua - Parted the Jordon River crossing into Canaan (Jos 3:7-17)
 - Elijah - Parted the Jordon River with Elisha (2K 2:6-8)
- In new earth there will be no sea (No metaphor for sin)

Similarities

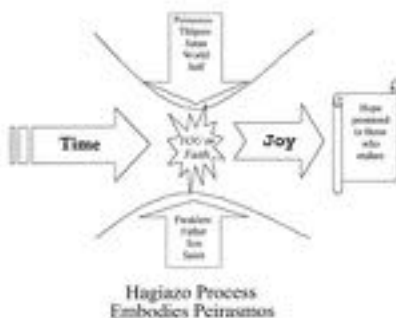
- In each of these instances man went between the waters on dry ground
 - People were a witness to the power of God over His creation for their benefit
 - Promise of His power available to help them overcome their difficulties; yet, they failed except:
 - Elisha received a double portion of God's Spirit that rested on Elijah {Did not wish for power or money}

Preceded Each Peirasmos

- Each of these demonstrations preceded each peirasmos
 - Hebrews faced peirasmos in the Wilderness - Failed (Ex 16:1-5)
 - Hebrews faced peirasmos in Canaan - Failed (Judg 2:1-5)
 - Elisha faced peirasmos in Israel - Succeeded (2K 13:20-21)
- Old Testament set the pattern we will see in this event concerning the apostles except water is the peirasmos

Hagiazo - Peirasmos Schematic

- Peirasmos integral to the Hagiazo Process {Make Holy or to Sanctify}
- God Allows Trial-Man Chooses {Faith or Flesh}- God Reveals to man the consequences of response



Mystery of Bethsaida(s)

- There were probably two Bethsaidas, in different territories
- Thus, the apostles could come from and to Bethsaida (Mk 6:45; Jn 6:16-17)



Mystery of Bethsaida. (<https://www.testimony-magazine.org/back/apr2003/version2.pdf>)

Jesus Orders Apostles into Boat

- As Messiah is God and thus omniscient He is aware of all events (except His Second Advent (Only Father))
 - When Christ orders His apostles into the boat He *knows* they will encounter a storm; why does He do this? (Mk 14:22)
 - The storm is their peirasmos of faith
- Jesus knows and prays for them on the mount (Lk 22:30-32)

Understanding The Picture

- The physical picture:
 - Storms frequently blow up quickly and violently at evening/night because of the clash between warm and cold fronts (Spring in America's Tornado Alley)
 - Small boat with single sail would be very difficult to control in strong winds during a lashing storm at night without light even for experienced fishermen like Peter, Andrew and others; life threatening event

Understanding the Metaphor

- The spiritual picture
 - Flowing water, helpful light and gentle breeze represent God's Holy Spirit (Ac 2:1-4)
 - These same elements, when out of control, represent Lucifer's angels {demons} at work {Sin=No self-control} (Ge 4:6-7; 1Co 14:30-33; Jas 1:11-13)
 - Thus, the raging sea, terrifying lightning/thunder and roaring winds at night denote demonic influence (Job 1:2)

Does Jesus Care?

- Jesus sent His apostles out onto the waters at night (another metaphor for spiritual demonic forces) to encounter their peirasmos, alone (1p 3:68)
 - Also, He was going to pass them by during the storm
 - Seems very callous by our standards of a *loving* God
- Goal of peirasmos - Reveal one's fleshly sinfulness and the need for complete dependence on Son {Faith} (Ro 8:24-25; 2Co 4:16-18; He 11:1, 5)

Total Picture

- The focus is on the apostles and their faith
 - They had just come back from a successful ministry trip preaching the Kingdom message with signs of power
 - Their limitation of faith was demonstrated during the feeding of the crowd when they did not know to pray to God for guidance and power
 - Storm will reveal they do not trust God to protect them until they arrive at their desired haven - Bethsaida

Under Lucifer's Attack

- Storm revealed, by metaphor, the spiritual attack always swirling about them of which they were blissfully unaware; thus, to them nonexistent (Ignorance)
 - This did not mean it did not exist, just that they were unaware of the raging battle until that night (A taste)
 - They saw the physical, not the spiritual battle
 - They did not make the leap to pray to God in distress

Messiah the Ghost?

- Apostles saw Messiah walking near them believing Him to be a spirit come to harm them, spiritual attack
 - Shows Christ very near the boat as He passed (*Glorified!*)
 - Unaware of God's power over creation and Satan (Ps. 89:9, 93:1-4)
 - They believed the apparition was a spiritual attack over which they were defenseless
 - Did not understand purpose of prayer

Expression of Deity

- Christ answered the apostles very clearly though it is not translated clearly in our Bibles
 - His answer in Greek: "ἐγώ εἰμι· μὴ φοβεῖσθε."
 - His answer in English: "I Am, fear not!" (Command)
 - His answer was a direct reference to Him being God and thus stop fearing as He has control for their good (Is. 3:10)
 - Reason for their fear: Working in their flesh, not faith

Apostles Had the Means

- Reason Jesus was going to pass them by is they had the same power He had: prayer to the Father (Joh 6:54, 25-30)
- Jesus had taught them about prayer
- Jesus consistently prayed setting the example for them
- Christ was going to let them *work* until they prayed; yet, He had compassion on their terror of His appearance
- Then He helped them out of their distress (Jn 10:25-32)

Peter Exercises His Faith

- It was at this juncture that Peter asked to “walk on water” {Prayer is respectful conversation with God} (Mt 14:28-31)
- Peter asked this to emulate Christ whom he could see
- He walked on water but became fearful because of seeing the raging elements vice trusting unseen God
- He began to sink, weakness of the flesh, but cried out in faith to Jesus who lifted him into the boat (Dependence)

Chastened for Little Faith

- Jesus chastened Peter, and all the apostles, for their little faith; the power of God available through prayer
- This plagued them throughout their gospel ministries because they were still Old Covenant
- Once they have the New Covenant, indwelling Spirit, we see a dramatic difference in their ministry
- Their major failing: Poor prayer equates to poor faith

Storm and Peirasmos End

- This peirasmos showed the apostles to be only human as ourselves yet helped by God despite their failings
 - With the lesson ended, the storm ended; demonic forces were banished by Son of God (Mt 8:28-33)
 - This demonstrated His power over creation and demonic spiritual forces: over the seen and unseen
 - This demonstrated man's helplessness against the seen and unseen unless empowered by God through prayer

Why Walk on Water?

- Moses, Joshua and Elijah walked on dry ground with the waters held at bay
 - Man is of the ground (Gn 2:7, 18, 21-25)
 - Metaphor of spiritual forces surrounding them in life
- Jesus, Son of God, is Creator of this creation (Jn 1:1-3, 10:40)
 - His walking on water showed His control over creation
 - Stopping the storm on command is control over Lucifer

Prayer Applied to Us Also

- The same lesson applies to us also for the same reason
 - Peirasmoi occur in our lives teaching us weakness of the flesh and need for complete dependence on Christ
 - Christians pray for removal of peirasmoi but not for learning the lessons of faith the peirasmoi reveal
 - Christ did not keep apostles from peirasmos, neither will He spare you if you are children of God (Jn 12:50, 13:8)