

# Perceptions

Mark 6:45-56

## 1. Divine Messiah or Just a Human Messiah vs. 45-46

After Jesus fed 5,000 men plus women and children, the crowd became very excited as they saw him as a prophet from God who should become their king to save them from the Roman Empire (John 6:14-15). With the wrong perception taking place, Jesus sent the disciples and the crowds away so he could spend time in prayer; the Son of God having fellowship with Father God.

## 2. The Son of God Vs. 47-50

Jesus had compassion upon the disciples and once again revealed to them that He is the Son of God.

- Although the disciples were in the middle of lake in the dark while Jesus was still on land, Jesus being God could see them struggle with such torment due to the strong winds.
- Jesus “passing by” is a term in scripture used when God reveals Himself to people in order to make Himself known to them (Exodus 33:17-34:7; 1 Kings 19:8-13, Job 9:8-11). Jesus revealed that He is the Son of God by walking on water that only God can do (Psalm 77:16-20; Isaiah 43:16-17; Job 9:8).
- Jesus proclaims He is God through reassuring his terrified disciples saying, “Take courage! **It is I**. Don’t be afraid.” “It is I” are the same words in the Septuagint (the Greek Hebrew Bible) that Yahweh uses in Exodus 3:14 when He revealed himself to Moses, “I AM”.

**As in the forgiveness of sins (2:10) and in his power over nature (4:39), walking on the lake identifies Jesus unmistakably as God in the flesh dwelling among us.**

## 3. Agent of God’s Salvation or Wonder Worker vs. 51-56

The disciples continued to wrestle with correct perception of Jesus, but the people in Gennesaret saw Jesus as the one who heals and restores, made sure all the sick could come to Jesus, and had such a strong faith that just touching the edge of His cloak would bring healing. Jesus’ healing and restoring revealed that He is the Divine Messiah, the one who will restore our relationship with God.

### Summary:

If we truly see who Jesus is and if we understand His mission, we will follow Him in doing the same. Jesus is our Divine Messiah, The Son of God, the Agent of Salvation.

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### Questions:

- What does this story tell us about Jesus?
- What does this story tell us about human nature?

- How can Jesus' words, 'Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.' be words of strength and encouragement if we truly see Jesus for who He is?
- In what ways does it comfort you knowing that Jesus is God, the Great I Am, the creator and sustainer of all things? (Colossians 1:15-17)