

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side."

Mark 4:35

Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd.

Mark 6:45

The disciples were doing exactly what Jesus had told them to do.

4:36-7 And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling.

6:46-48 And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray. And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night

Despite their obedience, the disciples encountered difficulty, struggle and danger

4:38 But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"

6:48-50 And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them, but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, for they all saw him and were terrified.

In the disciple's difficulty Jesus appeared to be absent

It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

Hebrews 12:7, 12-13

Training --Endurance/perseverance

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us...

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,

2 Corinthians 4:7, 17

Dependence

And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?"

And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Mark 4:39-41

Jesus showed up

But immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

Mark 6:50-52

Jesus showed up

*I will ponder all your work,
and meditate on your mighty deeds.
Your way, O God, is holy.
What god is great like our God?*

*...Your way was through the sea,
your path through the great waters;
yet your footprints were unseen.
You led your people like a flock
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.*

Psalm 77