

PASSING BY

Today's lesson comes from a famous story of a miracle performed by Jesus amidst a terrifying storm on the Sea of Galilee.

We'll focus on one part of this miracle at sea often overlooked – “And seeing them straining at the oars, at about the fourth watch of the night (3-6am), He came to them, walking on the sea; **and He intended (thelo / impf.a.ind) to pass (parerchomai / a.a.infin) by them.**” (Mk.6:48) (NAS)

We will now reduce today's lesson to the Greek word, parerchomai (to pass by)

We will study four aspects of PASSING BY to teach you that God will meet us in our greatest moment of need in the most extraordinary ways if necessary.

1. The Greek word parerchomai was used in the Jewish Age as a technical term to describe a Theophany.

Theophany (God appearance) was a unique manifestation of God to an individual or group. We will illustrate this principle with Moses, Elijah, and the disciples of Jesus from our lesson story.

Parerchomai was used with Moses on Mt Sinai when receiving the second set of 10 Commandments after smashing the first set because of the golden calf incident (Ex.32:19-29; 34:1-6).

- “Then **the Lord passed by** in front of him and proclaimed, ‘ The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in loving-kindness and truth’” (Ex.34:6)

Parerchomai was used with Elijah on Mt.Horeb when hiding in a cave from the wrath of Queen Jezebel

- (1 King 19:9-18). “So He said, ‘Go forth, and stand on the mountain before the Lord.’ And behold, **the Lord was passing by!** And a great and strong wind was rending the mountains and breaking in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing.” (19:11-12)

Parerchomai was used with the disciples of Jesus when they were in a terrifying storm at sea:

- (Mk.6:45-53). “And seeing them straining at the oars, for the wind was against them, at about the fourth watch of the night, He came to them, walking on the sea; and **He intended to pass** by them. But when they saw Him and were frightened. But immediately He spoke with them and said to them, ‘take courage; It is I, do not be afraid.’” (Mk.6:48-49)
 - What seems to be common among these three parerchomai incidences?
 - How could we apply this principle to our lives?

2. These Theophanies were unique manifestations of God to believers.

A Theophany could be an invisible God appearing visibly to man or a visible God appearing invisibly to man.

- Moses Lord in a mighty wind
- Elijah Lord NOT in whirlwind, earthquake, fire BUT in gentle blowing
- Disciples Lord in incarnate Jesus Christ

3. A Theophany was always a defining moment in biblical history in the plan of God to whoever experienced it.

It was intended to focus attention on a special message to a believer or group of believers.

- Moses – message after the golden calf and broken commandments (Ex.34:6-7).
- Elijah – message after running in fear from Queen Jezebel (1 King 19:10, 14, 15-18).
- Disciples – message after hardening their hearts to feeding of 5,000 and terrifying experience at sea (Mark 6:50-53).

Answer these five messianic questions given in Proverbs 30:4.

- “Who has ascended into heaven and descended?”(John 3:13; 6:62; Eph.4:8)
- “Who has gathered the wind in His fists?” (Mark 6:51)
- “Who has wrapped the waters in His garments?” (Mark 6:47-48)
- “Who has established all the ends of the earth?” (Col.1:15-17)
- “What is His name or His son’s name? Surely you know!” (Matt.3:17; Acts 4:10-12)

4. One principle that we have learned from today’s lesson is that God meets us in our greatest moment of need to do the most extraordinary things for us.

- Moses God met him in a moment of great frustration as a spiritual leader.
- Elijah God met him in a moment of great fear as a spiritual prophet.
- Disciples Jesus Christ met them in a moment of great faithlessness as future spiritual pillars of the Church.

Get personal with God for a moment. Don’t let this PASS BY YOU this Father’s Day!

- Is your life in a storm beyond Dramamine?
- What is the storm in your life?
- Who is piloting your lifeboat?
- Who has the power to control the storm?
- How are you doing? Your fears will give the answer. What you are trusting to deliver you will give the answer.

“For they all saw Him and were frightened. But immediately He spoke with them and said to them, ‘Take courage it is I, do not be afraid.’”

(Mk. 6:50)