

2026-10-11 Summary

What does it look like to truly rest in God, and why does that rest matter so much for our character and witness? Drawing from the familiar account in Mark 6 and Matthew 14 of Jesus feeding five thousand people and then walking on water to reach his disciples, we are invited to look past the surface of a well-known story and discover what is really happening beneath it. Jesus, tired and grieving, still turns toward the crowd with compassion. He sends his disciples ahead by boat, dismisses the crowd with intention, and then withdraws alone to pray on a mountainside. That sequence is not accidental. It reveals a rhythm of engagement, release, and renewal that we are meant to imitate. The disciples, meanwhile, are straining at the oars against a headwind, making no progress, growing frustrated. And Jesus watches. He does not immediately calm the storm. He lets them struggle, because the struggle is doing something in them that calm water never could. When he finally comes to them walking on the lake and says 'It is I, do not be afraid,' he is not just identifying himself. He is connecting that moment to the great I AM, the God who is present in every storm we face. The question this raises for us is a deeply personal one: are we allowing God to develop our character through difficulty, or are we demanding that he simply make things easier?