

Mark 6: "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.

When I am teaching in school, there are times when I see the "aha" moment. It is the realization that something that FINALLY I understand it. It is something that I had been struggling with for over 40 years, and now, now that I am teaching it, Ohh, aha, I finally get it! And the lightbulb is there above my head. I sometimes see it in the eyes of the students, too.

At this point in their education, the disciples did not yet get it. The loaves of bread for example; they all saw it, they all knew what happened, they knew what Jesus did and the crowds that were fed, but they DID NOT UNDERSTAND it.

That is the way that many non-believers are when you speak with them about spiritual things. I remember teaching adult catechism. We were on communion and I explained holy communion where the ACTUAL BODY and BLOOD of CHRIST were there, present on the altar. It is a main point that I stress over and over again. After the lesson, one of the ladies came up to me and said, Pastor, you should explain communion better. It sounded like you were saying that Christ's *actual* body and blood are present on the altar.

ARRRGH!

We have come so far from Christ that when the storms of life occur, and they will occur, we miss Christ when He comes walking to us in the midst of the storm. We become frightened of God's response to our need and we react out of fear and lack of understanding.

My hope and prayer are two things: 1. that we and all people learn of Christ and understand His forgiveness in our lives and 2. that when we speak of Christ and His mercy in the Gospel to strangers of the Gospel, we have the patience to realize that it may take a while for people to understand what God is saying to them.

God supplies us the "aha" moments in our lives so that we will understand His message to us in a deeper way with the full meaning behind it.