

Sermons 2008

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Chapter 1. Are You Sinking?

READ - Mark 4:33-5:1

TEXT - *And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith? (Mark 4:40)*

THEME - In light of Jesus Christ, how can we not believe, even in the storms of life?

Introduction

"And there arose a great storm..."

1. Storms are common on the Sea of Galilee.

(And these disciples were fishermen! You'd think a little storm wouldn't bother them!)

But this storm was too much even for these men who shrugged off storms.

2. Storms are common in life.

We can relate, can't we? We always seem to be in the midst of storms.

And some here today have gone through some storms recently, or are going through them now.

When we're in the midst of such storms, it's easy to forget that God knows all about them... that God knows what He's doing. He does, you know. If He puts you through a storm it is because He knows you need to go through that storm.

Let's notice a couple thoughts that might build our faith, and help us when we go through storms:

Jesus Had A Plan

And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side. (Mark 4:35)

And they came over unto the other side... (Mark 5:1)

1. His PLAN for the disciples was safe passage.

Now I plan things all the time, and my plans don't always succeed. (Perhaps you can relate?)

But may I suggest to you this morning that for Jesus, a plan is no different than a promise? For Him to plan is no different than for Him to accomplish that which He plans?

ILLUS - His life is an illustration. To much of the world, Jesus is a tragic figure... cut down in His prime... killed by His enemies. Yet when you study His life in the 4 gospels, you cannot help but see that even when things looked most out of control, they were going EXACTLY ACCORDING TO HIS PLAN!

2. His plan for you and I is safe passage, too.

(John 6:40 KJV) And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

(John 6:47 KJV) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

One of the most beautiful verses in the Bible, and one which my wife loves and has hanging in our home, is *Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you,*

Chapter 1. Are You Sinking?

declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Never forget Jesus has a plan for your life. And that plan is as good as a promise. He is working in and through you if you are one of His own. Be encouraged by that.

Jesus Was Present

"... they took Him... in the ship." (Mark 4:36)

1. He was WITH them.

I guess we can be forgiven for poking fun at the disciples' lack of faith here. They had the God of the universe IN THE BOAT, and they were worried about it sinking. They had the One who had with a word created the sea... the wind... the storm... IN THE BOAT! It seems almost ludicrous that they would fear sinking in such a condition, doesn't it?

But we are not different than the disciples, are we? For our Lord is WITH US, and yet we fear when the waves rise around our boat!

2. He is WITH us, you know.

This glorious truth was made clear at the very beginning and the very ending of His earthly ministry:

(Mat 1:23 KJV) Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

(Mat 28:20 KJV) ... lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

HE IS IN THE BOAT! If you are a child of God, no matter the storm, HE IS WITH YOU IN THE BOAT!

... he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. (Hebrews 13:5)

3. He is also IN us.

(Gal 2:20 KJV) I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

(Col 1:27 KJV) To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

SONG - Christ Liveth in Me

As lives the flower within the seed,
As in the cone the tree,
So, praise the God of truth and grace,
His Spirit dwelleth in me.

Just as the boat could only sink if Christ could sink (impossible), so you and I can only sink if Christ can! IMPOSSIBLE!

(Mark 4:40 KJV) And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

Jesus Was At Peace

"And He was... asleep on a pillow." (Mark 4:38)

Can you picture the scene? The waves are crashing, foaming over the gunwales of the quivering boat... some of the disciples are frantically bailing water as fast as they can... others are shouting in confusion... others are trying to row and keep the boat

pointed into the waves, but they are unable to do so... lightning is flashing, thunder is crashing, and terrified men are screaming. Above the din somebody is heard to shout, "WHERE IS THE LORD?" And they see Him... ASLEEP ON A PILLOW in the midst of it all!

1. Nothing surprises the Savior.

QUOTE "Has it ever occurred to you that nothing has ever occurred to God?"

- a. No sin.
- b. No difficulty.
- c. No circumstance.

"But Preacher, you don't know what I'm going through!" (True... but He does!)

2. Nothing frightens the Savior.

He is not dismayed by the oil prices today, or the medical prognosis you received this week, or the seeming impasse in your marriage... He is not worried about our upcoming elections here in America, nor about the raging of wicked dictators in other parts of the world... HE IS IN CONTROL, and HE IS AT PEACE. It doesn't matter whether it looks that way or not... HE IS IN CONTROL.

SONG - This is my Father's World:

This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world: the battle is not done:
Jesus Who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and Heav'n be one.

This is my Father's world. I walk a desert lone.
In a bush ablaze to my wondering gaze God makes His glory known.
This is my Father's world, a wanderer I may roam
Whate'er my lot, it matters not,
My heart is still at home.

3. If we see His peace, we can have peace.

(Mark 4:40 KJV) And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

Jesus Had The Power

And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. (Mark 4:39)

1. These disciples had seen His power on so many occasions:

(Bible study:)

- a. Casting out demons - *(Mark 1:23f)*
- b. Healing Peter's mother in law - *(Mark 1:31)*
- c. Cleansing a leper - *(Mark 1:41)*
- d. Healing the sick of the palsy - *(Mark 2:11)*
- e. Straightening the withered hand - *(Mark 3:5)*
- f. Multiple healings and cleansings - *(Mark 3:10-11)*

2. And here again, He reminded them of His infinite power.

NOTHING was beyond His ability.

ILLUS - My good friend's sermon topic - My Father Can Fix ANYTHING!

... with God nothing shall be impossible. (Luke 1:37)

When the storms rise in our life, why is it that we so often wonder whether He can handle it?

QUOTE (Unknown) - "The God who was, is. The God who did, does."

When the storms come to your life, get in the book... read afresh the great power of our Savior... remember the things He did and does... and lay your head on your pillow and sleep in peace... for HE HAS THE POWER TO OVERCOME ANY STORM YOU MIGHT FACE!

(Mark 4:40 KJV) And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

Conclusion

Are you sinking, this morning? Do you feel like the disciples did, overwhelmed and fearful? If so, may you find strength in these truths:

- Jesus has a PLAN... He has already said you'll make it to the other side!
- Jesus is WITH you and IN you through the storm!
- Jesus is NOT AFRAID, but rather at peace during the storm - for He is in control.
- Jesus has more power than ANY storm! There's nothing you can go through that He cannot handle.

Mark 4:40 (KJV) And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

I guess the main question I must leave you with today is this, IS JESUS IN YOUR BOAT? If He is, you need fear nothing. If He is not, your boat is sinking, and you will perish.

Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved! Ask Him to get in the boat with you today. Trust Him as your Savior today. Know the peace that only a Christian can know in a storm. IS JESUS IN YOUR BOAT?