

The Perfect Storm

Jonathan Landis 6/22/07

Mark 4:35-41 NIV

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." [36] Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. [37] A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. [38] Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

[39] He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

[40] He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

[41] They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

1. Sometimes "Furious Squalls" Come Up In Our LIVES

Most of the time when storms come up, they take us by surprise. For the disciples... they had been with Jesus that day... He taught crowds of people about the Kingdom of God. It was an awesome day... a lot of people were touched by Jesus words. Then they cruise out onto a peaceful lake to cross to the other side... when out of nowhere a giant storm appears.

Q: Have you been taken by surprise by a crazy event in your life??

Maybe your grandmother passes away... or your parents suddenly tell you their getting a divorce. That's a BIG storm!!!

All of us face storms in life... some big and some small... but all of us will face some storms.

Sometimes it seems like the storm will tear us to pieces. It seems like there is no way out of it... no way to make it through.

Video clip – the Perfect Storm

But even though the storm is impassible... I have some good news...

2. Jesus Brings Peace To the Most Violent Storms **(re-read vs. 38-39)**

Jesus was sleeping in the middle of the storm. Even though a violent storm was raging about Him He was at peace. The storms of our lives don't take Him by surprise either. Even though they may throw us for a loop... He isn't shaken... He's at peace. Since He is at peace in the middle of the storm, He is able to give us peace as well.

All Jesus had to do was speak the word, and the wind and waves obeyed and were calmed. Ask any sailor, and they will tell you that the peace after the storm is the calmest and most beautiful weather of all. Jesus is able to calm the storms of your life.

Sometimes He doesn't calm the storms right away... He takes us through the storms. But fear not, because He can even bring peace to stand through the storm...

3. Faith Overcomes Fear – When We Trust Jesus, we don't have to be afraid anymore...

George Mueller, speaking of the obstacles in the Christian's life, said, "I say—and say it deliberately—trials, obstacles, difficulties, and sometimes defeats, are the very food of faith" (Ibid, pgs. 4-5).

Donnie Martin (sermoncentral.com accessed 6/22/07)

In other words... without trials and storms... we don't have need for faith. It is when trials strike... and the storm seems out of control, when our faith is put to use. Faith is trust in God. If we don't trust in God when the going gets tough, we don't really trust Him at all.

Jesus asked the disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" (vs. 40) If they had really trusted Jesus they wouldn't have

to be afraid of the storm... because the Lord is more powerful than the storm. We don't need to be afraid of the storm... Jesus is more powerful than any storm. Whether He calms the storm, or seems like He is sleeping during the storm... there is nothing to fear. God is in control. Jesus is greater than the storm.

HOW CAN YOU BE SO CALM?

Years ago a military officer and his wife were aboard a ship that was caught in a raging ocean storm. Seeing the frantic look in her eyes, the man tried unsuccessfully to remove her fears. Suddenly she grasped his sleeve and cried, "How can you be so calm?" He stepped back a few feet and drew his sword. Pointing it at her heart, he said, "Are you afraid of this?"

Without hesitation she answered, "Of course not!"

"Why not?" he inquired. "Because it's in your hand, and you love me too much to hurt me." To this he replied, "I know the One who holds the winds and the waters in the hollow of His hand, and He will surely care for us!"

The officer was not disturbed because he had put his trust in the Lord.

Christian Cheong (sermoncentral.com accessed 6/21/07)

A wise person once stated that fear is the opposite of faith. When we have faith in God, we don't need to be afraid anymore. If you are afraid of people's opinions of you... have faith. If you are afraid that you won't be able to have all that you need to live... have faith... Jesus knows your needs... and He provides for His children. If you are afraid that you are not equipped to do the things you feel called of God to do... have faith. He doesn't call the equipped... He equips the called. If you are afraid that if you don't date you won't meet your future spouse... have faith... God is preparing someone amazing for you... and He knows how to hook you up. God really cares about every area of our lives. He knows the challenges we face... and He knows the storms...

When families break up... He's riding in the boat with you.

When a friend or relative dies... He's riding in the boat with you.

When a friend gossips about you, and stabs you in the back...

He's riding in the boat with you.

When the storms of life strike... remember the words of the navy officer. "I know the One who holds the winds and the waters in the hollow of His hand, and He will surely care for us!"

Altar Time:

If you are facing any kind of storm in your life... I encourage you to spend some time at the altar and let Jesus bring peace into your life. We're going to play the song "No Sacrifice" again... as we play this...Find a place of prayer.