

Pastor Zach: 12/29/24

Walking through the storms in life in Faith

Sometimes He calms the Storm: Scott Krippayne 1995

All who sail the sea of faith
Find out before too long
How quickly blue skies can grow dark
And gentle winds grow strong
And suddenly fear is like white water
Pounding on the soul
But still we sail on knowing
That our Lord is in control

Sometimes He calms the storm
With a whispered peace be still
And He can settle any sea
But it doesn't mean He will
Sometimes He holds us close
And lets the wind and waves go wild
Sometimes He calms the storm
And other times He calms His child

Jesus is Lord over all
He will be there with me in the storm

The first word that shows up is "immediately." Jesus just finished feeding 5000 men + women and children (10,000 - 20,000 people). He fed them all until they were satisfied. After they finished there were 12 baskets of leftovers.

Jesus just got the news that John the Baptist was murdered.

Jesus wanted to be by Himself. Jesus went through emotional things every once in a while.

The apostles had just seen Jesus' power in nature and feeding 5000+ etc. Immediately He made the apostles get into a boat and go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee.

Jesus goes off to the mountain to pray to His Father.

John 6:19 reference - It looks like they are 3-4 miles offshore.

vs 25 - It's the 4th watch of the night, between 3 AM and 6 AM. The wind is beating up the boat badly with these professional fishermen who were tired and probably cranky. It's pitch black. This happened a few weeks earlier too, but Jesus was with them at that time asleep in the bow..

There are times in our lives where we feel beaten, tired, half asleep, alone. Storms happen even while we are serving Christ.

Who sent them on in the boat? Jesus!

Serving God does not negate the hardship and storms in our life. In reality the storms come faster and much more often.

Life's hardships are in fact guaranteed.

Vs 25 - The Jesus encounter: He comes to them walking on the rough seas. Many times in these moments of hardships Jesus shows up, and He shows up big. He is walking on storming water, and the disciples are very afraid.

God allows us sometimes to go through our hardships to test our Faith. He allows us to be in a place of waiting, wanting and waning for Him.

We see it in Abraham, David, Job, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, etc. Why does God allow this in our life? He allows it because it's good for us to develop our faith, build strength and trust in Him.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego said "our God can save us, but even if He does not we will not bow down and worship the statue."

We've seen God work in our lives and the lives of others, yet sometimes we forget. Often in our lives Jesus allows us to go through our hardship, but He gives us His strength to get through it. God is perfecting us. We must allow ourselves to remain under that hardship. Our prayer should be "God help me to get through this hardship and teach me what you want me to learn from it."

"If you're going through hell, just keep going. Never, never give up." Winston Churchill.

What Jesus says here to the apostles is "Don't be afraid. Take heart. I Am (Greek - ego eimi)."
He tells them He is the I Am!

Peter says, "If this is You let me come to you on the water." Peter got out of the boat in Faith. Peter gets out of his comfort zone. He wants to get to God. God can do wonderful things in our lives, if we are willing to pursue Him!

We need to renounce comfort as the ultimate value in our lives and step out in Faith.

When Peter's faith faltered as he was distracted by the water (life) Jesus reaches out His hand and saves Peter.

Don't get distracted by life. May we come to the understanding that the Apostles had. May we have the faith that Peter had. May we be reassured that Jesus is always there for us. May we declare what the Apostles declared - that Jesus is the Son of God! May we declare this by the way we live our lives.