

IN TRANSITION

Life Groups Application

“Jesus is not nervous!” - Jesus, is the Storm Tamer

Mark 4:35-41

When you are in a storm you feel powerless, vulnerable, uncertain, and unprepared. Storms often come without warning, move fast, and create chaos in their wake.

In our lives we can experience external physical storms but also internal emotional storms.

Questions: Share of a time you were in a storm or witnessed a storm. Where were you? How did you feel? What do you remember most?

In your personal life right now, what storms are you facing? What causes you the greatest fear and uncertainty?

Peace from the world’s perspective is the absence of something...no noise, no pain, no conflict, no stress, no pressure, and no change.

But in the kingdom of God peace is the presence of someone! Peace is the abiding presence of Jesus! The felt awareness of his awe-inspiring life!”

PROP: Peace in the storms of life require a vibrant, unveiled, awe-spiring revelation of Jesus

Notice two things the Disciples saw about Jesus:

1. Jesus is greater than our STORMS.

They had brought Jesus along...just as he was...and now they discover just who he is!

- Jesus is the King of a Kingdom that is unstoppable.

If we really believed that Jesus is the King of an Eternal Kingdom all fear would be irrational!

Question: Why is this so difficult? What hinders you from fully embracing this truth?

Peace is your possession. It a deep awareness of Jesus and our citizenship within God Kingdom!

So, when you begin to feel fear or anxiety you need to ask: “Where did I drop my peace?” I need to find out where I dropped it.

Question: What does it mean to repent your way back to peace?

- Jesus is the Lord over all creation

Jesus rebukes the wind because it is under his authority. The wind and the waves immediately become calm...like glass. Greek word tense – a verb of continuing action.

Be quiet and stay quiet.

This may shock you...but as Christians we are not called to live without fear. Instead, we are called to choose the right fear. What fear are you choosing? Cowardice or sheer awe?

II. Jesus is committed to us in our Storms.

Why is the question “Teacher, don’t you care that we drown?”, a terrible question to ask Jesus?

Have you ever asked him in your most stressful circumstances a similar question?

Why do storms come in the first place?

- Storms invite us into a deeper intimacy with Jesus.

In a storm Jesus always does two things: 1) He will demonstrate his power through calming the storm, 2) He will demonstrate his power by calming you in the storm.

Question: How have you experienced these in your life? In what ways did this deepen your intimacy with Jesus?

- Storms remind us that we are on mission against the forces of evil.

Christianity is not a refuge from the uncertainties and dangers of the world but rather a daring call to follow Jesus into his mission of destroying the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8)

Question: How does this reality challenge or change your perspective on the storms you are in right now?

Conclusion

In Rembrandt's painting of “Jesus calming the storm,” there are fourteen people on the boat. Twelve of them are the disciples and the 13th is Jesus...who is the 14th person?

I dare you to put yourself in the boat with Jesus or even better to see Jesus in the boat with you...to see him as the King of an unstoppable kingdom, to be in awe of his power over nature, to experience his deep care for you and to courageous “go to the other side” on mission for his glory!

Question: How does this awe-inspiring vision of Jesus in this passage help frame our response to being in a lead pastoral transition?

Prayer: “This is uncomfortable for me, and I am becoming stressed about this situation, but I know You have this, and I trust You! Give me the strength, the will, and the way to get through this, and teach me whatever You are trying to teach me through this storm. Jesus, calm the storm or calm me in the storm! I choose to live in awe of you not cowardly fear. Thank you for your loving me and protecting me, in my storms!”

