

With Us In The Storms
2019-05-26

John 6:16-21

When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, 17 got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them.

18 The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. 19 When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened.

20 But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." 21 Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

Public miracle disciples only saw fed 5000. Not that Jesus know/care about/meet needs.

- Private miracle so understand Jesus. Mark 6:45-48a, 52, Markt 14:22, John 6:18-19a

Jesus knew the storm was coming (omniscient) yet sent them out so grow in faith/learn trust Him.

- By being obedient, they entered trial (Paul, cross) that tested all physical and spiritual resources; struggled 6-7 hours...until 3-6am and only went 3-4 mile.
 - Probably felt scared, alone, overwhelmed and exhausted
- All go through stormy dark times where we're out of our control... sometimes due to your sin or others.....finances, sickness (cancer), marriage, family, job,
 - Never alone or abandoned...Jesus is watching, knows what you're going through and what He going to do. Psalm 139:7-10, Proverbs 15:3

Disciples lost sight of Jesus but they never wandered out of His sight.

- Can never stray beyond Jesus' sight and grip of His grace/mercy.
 - Jesus lovingly brings storms so see our lack of ability/strength (feed 5000) so driven to Jesus our all-sufficient Savior/friend for help.

At point of greatest need (sometimes w/loving delay) Jesus' presence, power manifests in perfect time/way to care for and help us. John 6:19-20, Matthew 14:25-27

- Jesus can do miracle from mountain but instead personally goes to them in storm.
 - Lord not promise Christian life of ease but life with His presence.
- He is not distant but with us in storms of life where He reveals His glory, power, compassion as He strengthens us in our deepest pain, fears, troubles.
 - His presence calm fears/comforts because He is great "I AM". Exodus 3:14
 - Never, no matter how difficult circumstance, have to do without him.
 - Often not wait for Jesus' help or listen to his voice.

Believing Jesus is with us in storms can replace fear with faith. Matthew 14:27-31

- Faith to get out of boat and trust Jesus but not faith enough to keep eyes on Jesus.
 - Focused on tangible things w/human/horizontal perspective.
 - Not vertical perspective on Jesus so circumstances drag him down.

- Whenever eyes off Lord and on storms/situations—\$\$, relationship, health—we susceptible to fear, hopelessness, anger—all give sinking feeling.
 - Sometimes like Peter start well then faith wavers but not utterly fail.
 - Jesus is not angry with Peter's fear/weak faith but patient with him.

Life is a battle of faith/doubt, vertical/horizontal perspective with both victory/defeat sometimes in same storm/struggle. 2 Corinthians 12:9

- Not always His will to miraculously take out of storm. John the Baptist, cross, Peter
 - Jesus will be with you in storm and bring you to place for your greatest joy/good that He intended all along. John 6:21, Matthew 14:32-33, Psalm 107:30
 - If not in storm disciples not see Jesus glory/power/love manifested that resulted in their worshipping Him.

Lots of storms all around us. Personal/world. Hebrews 12:11, James 1:2, Romans 5:3, 2 Corinthians 1:4

- Trial never enjoyable @ moment but always purposeful...future help others.
 - We grow to trust Jesus' presence, power, care in storms He puts us through.
 - Come out on other side with clearer understanding of our strong, loving, caring Savior and Friend which will lead to true worship.