

Lord Over Your Storm
2024-08-04

Mark 4:39-40

He awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. 40 He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?"

.....WOW! It's **nice to be together** in **one service**. LEFC is **classified** as a **small-medium** church. This particular **church** is **unique**, we have been **blessed** with many **good preachers** (Ryan, Steve, Ken).

Steve's first point from his sermon last week: **God** is the One who "**orchestrates**" **trouble or trials**.

- **We are angry** at the **mere suggestion** that God **directs** and **uses painful**, **hard**, **unjust**, even **evil** things.
 - God **uses evil** for His **purposes**, but He **never does evil**, is never **author** of **evil**, and never **takes pleasure in it** or is to **blame for it**. James 1:13-15
 - **Sin arises** from the Lord **withholding** His **restraining action**.
Example: the sun setting, warmth disappears.
- **The central truth: Trouble and storms** are a part of **God's divine plan** to **strengthen your faith**.

By **obeying** Jesus' disciples **experienced the storm** that **deepens faith** and **trust** in Him. Mark 4:35-37

- **All Christians go through stormy, troubling** times, **sometimes** brought on by **obedience** to Jesus Christ, sometimes **our** or **others sin**, money, **sickness** (cancer), **marriage**, family, or **job**.
 - **We** are like the **Disciples**, the **problem is not** the **storm around** us, but the **unbelief within**.

In trials, trouble, or storms we are **tempted** to **think** and **act** in a **sinful** manner.

- **We question God's** purposes, **goodness**, wisdom and **love** and **become** impatient, **angry and fearful**.
 - Jesus' **calm** caused the **disciples** to **accuse** Him of **not caring**. Mark 4:38, Luke 12:6-7, Isaiah 49:15
- In **storms of life**, we need to **remember** that **Jesus cares deeply**.
 - Jesus **suffered** and **died** to **save** you, and now He **doesn't care**?

Trouble, even experiences as result of **evil sent with purpose**: Still no faith" Mark 4:39-41

- **When JC calmed the storm**, it **displayed** to them His **glory**, power, **love**, and **greatness**.

God's purpose in that **storm**, or your storm is to prove that Jesus Christ is **all-sufficient**, to **glorify** God, and to **build your faith**.

- **They** are **designed** by the Lord to **produce** spiritual **maturity** and to **make** us **more like Jesus**.
 - **We** want **happiness**; **God** wants **holiness**.

- Each trial makes us stronger for next trial (prep for race) but also meant to bring us to end of ourselves and make us dependent upon God's generous grace.
 - He reveals our weakness, our need, and our sin and drives us humbly to the Lord for wisdom, strength, and help.

It is a comfort to know that the Lord's sovereignty and providence guarantees no trouble or storm is meaningless.

- We must believe before the storm because in the midst of trials we revert back to truth we have already learned.
 - Even then we do not always trust God's power, love, or sovereign purposes for your life.

Life is a constant battle of faith and doubt, a vertical and horizontal perspective. 2 Corinthians 5:7, 4:17-18

- Horizontal perspective pertains to man, and his comfort is the ultimate goal. Man looks at life and sees a life full of challenges and frustration.
 - Man doubts God's goodness, cripples his relationship with God, fears and is full of self-pity.
- Vertical perspective pertains to God, His glory is the ultimate goal. Life has a larger, eternal perspective.
 - Wisdom is to look at life from God's perspective, which enables trust that His actions or *seemingly* inaction are ultimately GOOD and a part of His divine plan.

Jesus, in the perfect moment, in the most perfect way, cares for and helps the disciples, though for them it seems too late. Mark 4:39, Psalm 18:30,

- Steve's second and third points are that Jesus Christ is the treasure, and that He provides triumph over trouble.

Your storm by God's design is for His good purposes. He is in control and sovereign overall.

- The Lord does not promise Christians a life of ease, but life with His presence, power, and peace.
 - He is with you, comfort/strengthen in deepest pain, fears, trouble & at exact right moment will act & thus reveal His glory, power, love.

We don't always understand why things happen, and the Lord is not obligated to explain.

- But His sovereignty guarantees no trouble or storm is meaningless but has an eternal purpose.
 - We can come out of troubles and storms with a clearer understanding of our strong, loving, caring Savior and Friend that produces deep intimate fellowship and worship.