

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2019

MORNING MESSAGE

“Rest in the Midst of the Storm”

Matthew 14:22-33

- I. REST ON THE PLAN OF JESUS (v.22)
 - A. The disciples were in a storm because they obeyed the command of Jesus
 1. “Constrained” means to compel, persuade, or force
 2. Many modern translations use the word “made”
 - B. Some people believe that if you are in a storm you must be out of God’s will
 1. That’s what Job’s friends believed
 - a. Job 4:8, “they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same”
 2. That’s what Jesus’ disciples believed
 - a. John 9:2, “Master, who did sin, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”
 - C. There are two kinds of storms in the Bible
 1. Storms of correction; they discipline us
 - a. Jonah was in a storm of correction
 2. Storms of perfection; they mature us
 3. You are safer in a storm in the will of God than you are in a shelter outside the will of God
- II. REST ON THE PRAYERS OF JESUS (v.23)
 - A. While the disciples were in the storm, Jesus was praying
 1. Mark adds, “And he saw them toiling in rowing (6:48)”
 - a. Although they could not see Him, He saw them, and He was praying
 - B. While we are in the midst of the storm, Jesus is praying for us
 1. Romans 8:34, “It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us”
 2. Hebrews 7:25, “Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them”
- III. REST ON THE PRESENCE OF JESUS (vv.24-25)
 - A. In the midst of the storm, Jesus showed up
 1. “Midst” translates a Greek word that means “many stadia”
 - a. A stadia was about an eighth of a mile
 2. John adds that “they had rowed about five and twenty of thirty furlongs” (6:19)
 - a. A furlong was about 600 feet
 - b. The wind had blown them three or four miles into the middle of the sea
 - B. In the “fourth watch of the night”, Jesus showed up
 1. The night was divided into watches or shifts
 2. The fourth watch would be just before dawn; between 3 and 6 a.m.
 - C. Jesus often seems nearer in the storms of life
 1. Jesus came walking on the thing they feared the most
 2. Everything that is over your head is under Jesus’ feet
- IV. REST ON THE PURPOSE OF JESUS (vv.26-31)
 - A. Only Matthew records this wonderful story

1. The disciples thought Jesus was a ghost
 - a. "Spirit" translates the Greek "phantasma", which means phantom, creature of the imagination, or ghost
2. Jesus identified Himself; "It is I"
 - a. Jesus is real
3. Jesus invited Peter to step out of the boat and walk on water
 - a. "Doubt" means to "think twice" or have second thoughts
 - b. Jesus wanted the disciples to learn to walk by faith

V. REST ON THE PROTECTION OF JESUS (vv.32-33)

- A. The disciples miraculously survived the storm
 1. When Jesus and Peter got in the boat the storm stopped
 2. John says, "and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went" (6:21)
- B. There are at least three ways God protects you in the storms
 1. He may calm the storm
 2. He may take you through the storm
 3. He may take you out of the storm