

Theme: Peace comes from within through the strength that Christ provides, not from our external circumstances or possessions.

Key Statement: It is one thing to live in a continual state of serenity without stress or conflict. It is quite another to experience peace grounded in a right relationship with God, even during trying circumstances.

Luke 8:22-25

Jesus Calms a Storm

One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, “**Let us go across to the other side of the lake.**” So they set out, and as they sailed he fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger. And they went and woke him, saying, “Master, Master, we are perishing!” And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, “**Where is your faith?**” And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, “Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?”

1. Throughout the Christmas season, you will encounter the phrase “Peace on earth, good will toward men” and the baby described as “the Prince of Peace.” How do we focus on the true meaning of such words while chaotically trying to conquer our holiday checklist? We begin by understanding the difference between peaceful and peace. It is one thing to live in a continual state of serenity without stress or conflict. It is quite another to experience peace grounded in a right relationship with God, even during trying circumstances.

Slide 8: And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger.

1. There are storms in life that come to each of us, No one knows what a day may bring .
 - a. There will be trials that come to all of our lives no one is exempt. The disciples thought they were going on a short boat ride across the lake.
 - b. These men were experienced fishermen and still consumed by fear.
 - c. Fun Fact: 365 times in the Bible, once for every day of the year, God has told us not to be afraid, to fear not.
 - d. Sooner or later, we will find ourselves in a storm.
 - e. Today's message will show us how to find peace in the midst of the storm.
 - i. Peace is not the subtraction of problems from life.
 - ii. Peace is the addition of Jesus Christ to meet those problems.

and they were filling with water and were in danger. And they went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!"

2. Do Not Stay In Fear: "Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples.
 - a. We must remember when we are in a storm that we should not stay in fear when a crisis hits us. Let's face it. All of us get afraid when we are in a difficult situation. But we must not stay in fear!
 - b. The cry of the disciples in verse 24 does not come as a request but as an expression of utmost fear. They felt that their Master didn't care about them. Forgotten abandoned.
 - c. The disciples were in a terrible situation. The storm was life-threatening. They were not afraid for no reason. Some of these disciples were experienced fishermen. But they understood that this storm could snatch away their very lives that night. Still, Jesus asked them, "Where is your faith?"
 - d. Isaiah 40:25

"To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One.

Last week Bret talked about the Awesome power of God who is God's equal? So if there is no equal rest in his strength, shed your fear and be at peace.

And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, “Where is your faith?”

3. God is in Control !!!

- a. We see in verse 23 that Jesus was sleeping when the boat was being filled with water. While some scholars ascribe Jesus’ peaceful sleep to his own faith in the Father’s care, others see it as a sign of Jesus’ sovereignty and security.
- b. In verse 24, we see that Jesus stilled the storm with a word.
 - i. In Jesus we have a savior in whom God was and is at work, a savior that speaks and the “wind and the waves” do obey, even when it appears that the storms may overwhelm them.
- c. In verse 25, Jesus is essentially saying, “Why are you afraid when I'm in the boat?”
- d. What happened to the disciples that day was not happenstance, nor was it a mistake.
- e. The storm did not take Jesus by surprise.
 - i. Isaiah 40: 13-14 Who can fathom the Spirit of the Lord, or instruct the Lord as his counselor? Whom did the Lord consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way?

Who was it that taught him knowledge or showed him the path of understanding? This was taught to us last week. He knows all things at all times. He is not surprised by ANYTHING! This storm, Covid, or anything that happens to even the least of us. NOT SURPRISED
 - ii. If Jesus can speak and stop the waves and wind he can certainly predict the weather!
- f. God knows when the storms are coming and allows them so that we can grow in him.
 - i. God is the master of the winds and the waves in all of our lives.

- ii. Think about the disciples reaction, they are beginning to understand who Jesus is.

And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?"

4. Be assured: GOD IS GOOD.

- a. The disciples doubted God's goodness. They felt that Jesus didn't care about them. Before we criticize these "timid" disciples, search your own heart. When we go through the storms of life, sometimes, we doubt God's goodness and even question His sovereign will. We wonder whether God is making a mistake by allowing painful situations in our lives.

- i. God Cares for you! He sent his son to die on a cross so that we could experience true peace.

1. Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4: 14-16

2. He cares for you, we can sometimes feel, just as the disciples did, that he has forgotten us, that our problems are too small, or too large for him. God sent his son for you, for you, he loves you! His redemption plan was for you, his peace is for you.

- b. Let's look at Job, most of us are familiar with this story. Quick summary, He is sent four messengers all giving him bad news that his servants were killed, livestock killed or stolen and even his children murdered. And this is his reaction. Job 1:20-22 At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. [Then he fell to the ground in worship](#) . And he said, “Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.” In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.
 - i. Wow what a response to trial and stress!
 - ii. Where does this peace come from?
 - 1. Faith
 - iii. How can he respond that way?
 - 1. He knows who is in control.
 - c. Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”
 - i. God wants to keep you and give you hope and peace for the future!
 - ii. Our God is a good God who always intends good for us even when it means that He has to take us through storms in our lives.
 - d. When you go through a storm, trust in God's goodness. He is for you and is at work in your life.
 - i. The birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus means that one day everything sad will come untrue. J.R.R Tolkien
 - ii. GOD IS GOOD!!!!!!!!!!
5. When you are in the storm: Summary:
- a. There will be storms, Period!

- i. When you are going through a storm, don't be afraid. Jesus is in the boat.
 - b. Don't let fear win, press in.
 - i. Your first reaction to be afraid is ok, but you can't stay there. You must press in to the promises of God in his scripture and pray.
 - ii. The faster you make this transition the better. The longer you let fear beat faith, the harder it becomes to be faithful!
 - iii. Make your faith stronger than your fear
 - 1. Read scripture
 - 2. Pray
 - 3. Meditate
 - 4. Be part of God's community (your local church)
 - c. God holds all things.
 - i. Your heavenly Father wants nothing more than for you to come to him in times of trouble so that he may give you peace.
 - ii. He is in control of all things, when we do not go to him it's really just us being too proud to get out of our strength and into his.
 - d. Good doesn't describe him!
 - i. We do not have any words, sentences, paragraphs, or books that can even begin to describe the Goodness of God.
 - 1. Think the most imaginative, wonderful, beautiful thought you can about the goodness of God and it will be nothing but a faint shadow.
- 6. Applying the Word
 - a. Do I understand that everyone must walk through storms?
 - i. Jesus wants to give you peace in the midst of the storm, he will take you through it not around it.
 - b. Do I let fear get the better of me?

- i. Do I get so wrapped up in fear that it crushes my faith?
 - c. Are you in control?
 - i. If you think you are that is the beginning of the end.
 - ii. You must realize that the One God that spoke and the wind and waves stopped is in control of your trials.
 - d. Do you believe that God wants the best for you?
 - i. He is a good father that wants his children to have Peace.
- 7. Jesus is in the boat!!
 - a. If you are going through a storm, don't be afraid. Jesus is in the boat. He is in control! If you are going through a financial difficulty, let me tell you, Jesus is in the boat! If you are suffering from any sickness, remember, Jesus is in the boat! If you are depressed, cheer up, because Jesus is in the boat!
 - b. "God can't give us peace and happiness apart from Himself because there is no such thing." C.S. Lewis
- 8. Benediction: **"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27**

