Where’s God in the storm? April 15, 2018

*John 6:16-21 Series: The Saviour Who Fills Our Emptiness*

*He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed.*

*Then they were glad that the waters were quiet, and he brought*

*them to their desired haven. - Psalm 107:29-30*

Intro: We can’t escape the storms of life.

1. Sometimes Jesus sends us into the storm. (vv. 16-18)
2. Mountaintop experiences are often followed by valleys.

v. 16 *When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea*

v. 17 *It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them.*

1. Storms test our faith and ability to cope.

v. 18 *The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing.*

v. 19 Rowing for three or four miles would have put the disciples in the middle of the sea.

1. Storms are part of God’s good plan for us.

Mark 6:45 *Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side*

Mark 6:48 *And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them*

* Why would Jesus send the disciples alone into the storm?
* How should the feeding of the 5000 have prepared the disciples for the storm?
* How do mountaintop experiences prepare us for the valleys that we walk through?
* What can we learn through the storms of life that we don’t learn through easier circumstances?
1. In the storm, we realize whom we really ought to fear. (v. 19)
2. Jesus really walked on the water.

v. 19 *they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat*

Carson: If the disciples simply saw Jesus walking by the lake, it is hard to imagine why they were terrified.

1. Jesus frightened the disciples more than the storm.

v. 19 *they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened*

Keller: They react in terror, because that is the natural human response to the supernatural.

1. Jesus is the only One we need to fear.

Proverbs 14:26 *In the fear of the LORD one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge.*

Proverbs 19:23 *The fear of the LORD leads to life, and whoever has it rests satisfied; he will not be visited by harm.*

Exodus 20:20 *Moses said to the people, “Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.”*

* Why do you think the disciples were so frightened by Jesus’ appearance?
* Why do you think the fear of the Lord leads to confidence? What’s the connection with a child’s sense of security?
* How does the fear of the Lord guard us against temptation?
1. We’re better for the storms we’ve trusted Jesus in. (vv. 20-21)
2. Jesus isn’t just the god of better circumstances.

v. 20 *But he said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.”*

Joshua 1:9 *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.*

1. There is joy in trials overcome through faith.

v. 21 *Then they were glad to take him into the boat*

Psalm 56:3 *When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.*

Proverbs 29:25 *The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe.*

Psalm 118:6 *The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?*

1. Trials only last as long as they are useful to us.

v. 21 *immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going*

Psalm 89:9 *You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you still them.*

Conclusion: Are you still rowing to the other side on your own?

* How does Jesus’ presence in a trial change things?
* How would meeting Jesus in the storm have changed the disciples?
* Why do you think that the boat “immediately” arrived at the other side once Jesus came aboard?
* Where do you most need to apply this message?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll look at John 6:22-40.

Notes