

“People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.”

“Have you ever felt that the church did not care?”

“Have you ever felt that God did not care?”

Jesus Stills the Sea

³⁵ On that day, when evening came, He said to them, "Let us go over to the other side." ³⁶ Leaving the crowd, they took Him along with them in the boat, just as He was; and other boats were with Him. ³⁷ And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up. ³⁸ Jesus Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" ³⁹ And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. ⁴⁰ And He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" ⁴¹ They became very much afraid and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"

Observations

1. It was Jesus' idea to go to sea.
The disciples are following Jesus.
2. The physical circumstances are terrifying.
These were skilled seaman & scared to death.
3. Mark contrasts the posture of the disciples with that of Jesus.
Outward striving, inward fearing.
4. Jesus' words to the elements are awesome but to the disciples are puzzling. **How could they not be intimidated?**
5. The disciples are blown away by both the storm and the miracle working Jesus.

Three Tempting Lessons

1. **How to still the storms around your life.**
 1. **Be sure Jesus is in your boat.**
 2. **Call on him when you start to sink.**
 3. **He will take away your bad circumstances.**
2. **Faith can change things.**
 1. **Jesus is showing us how faith works.**
 2. **We are to use faith in the same way.**
 3. **Speak a word of faith against circumstances.**
3. **Signs & wonders prove Jesus is the Christ.**
 1. **His authority over nature proves his identity.**
 2. **Trust him because of who he is.**

This is a valid point

The Real Lesson

★ **Jesus, the “Prince of Peace” has come to calm the storms **in our lives** that keep us in bondage to the intimidating circumstances of this world.**

1. **The model of Jesus' faith**
A relaxed inner attitude in contrast to fear.
2. **The example of the disciples**
After they got the point - Acts & Epistles

Acts 27

¹⁸ The next day as we were being violently storm-tossed, they began to jettison the cargo; ¹⁹ and on the third day they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands. ²⁰ And since neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small storm was assailing us, from then on all hope of our being saved was gradually abandoned. ²¹ And when they had gone a long time without food, then Paul stood up in their midst and said, "Men, you ought to have followed my advice and not to have set sail from Crete, and incurred this damage and loss."

“22 And yet now I urge you to keep up your courage, for there shall be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. 23 For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me, 24 saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.’ 25 Therefore, keep up your courage, men, for I believe God, that it will turn out exactly as I have been told. 26 But we must run aground on a certain island.”

The Disciples after Pentecost

They don’t seek to change their outward circumstances by the word of faith!

They do display an inner attitude of peace in the midst of life’s storms even as they go through them!

Philippians 4

“4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your forbearing spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. 6 **Be anxious for nothing**, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

1 Cor.4:10-21,
2 Cor.4:7-18, 6:1-10, 11:16-12:10

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After they got the point - Acts & Epistles
3. Many of Jesus’ outward acts had inner applications.
Feeding 5000 - “I am the bread of life”
Healing the blind man - “I am the light of the world”
Raises Lazarus - “I am the resurrection and the life”

1. We face many circumstances that may tempt us to feel God does not care but is it possible that we care for different things.

- When I ask for clear guidance and He wants to teach me wisdom He may be silent.
- When my relationships are stormy and I want peace but He wants sacrifice He may be silent.
- When I want healing from my physical pain and He wants me to know the fellowship of His suffering He may be silent.

2. God does not want to protect us from our fears but to free us from our fears.

3. We need a faith that will enable us to live in a storm of this world without being intimidated because we are not of this world.

4. We are to be more struck by the glory of God and His kingdom than we are intimidated by a fallen creation.

1. Are you feeling that God does not care because He has not removed the storms?
2. Are you refusing to address your fears while insisting on changing the circumstances?
3. Our challenge is to have a peace that world can't give or take away?

Steps to respond:

1. Take your baptism seriously - **where you die to self.**
2. Look at the next storm in your life as a challenge - **to an inner response not outer change.**
3. When God delivers you from a storm - be a disciple - **learn that He wants to set you free from inner storms.**

**Example
of Jesus being IN but not OF
the world.**

**Faith calls us
to face outer circumstances
with inner peace.**