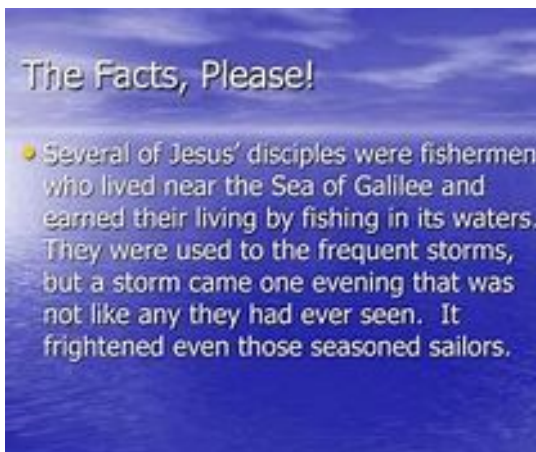


The Barnabas Project: How To Make It Through The Storm

Scripture: Mark 4.35-5.1

The Andrea Gail Disaster October 28, 1991



The probability of storms

It is inevitable and completely predictable that Christians will encounter storms in their life. Here are some sample scriptures instructing us of this very thing;

The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of **trouble**; and He knows them that trust in Him (Nah 1:7)

The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of **trouble** (Psalm 9:9-10)

Man is born unto **trouble** as the sparks fly upwards (Job 5.7)

..... in this world you will have **trouble** (John 16.33)

.....let not your hearts be **troubled**, neither be afraid (John 14.27)

The time of Jacob's **trouble** (Jeremiah 30.7; Matthew 24.15-31)

A word about the evil one and the storms in your life "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:" (I Peter 5.8).

The paradox of storms

The disciples were doing exactly what Jesus had told them to do, they were clearly doing the will of God, yet they encountered a fierce storm.

The presence within storms

The storm raged, but Jesus was asleep. This is the only mention in the bible of Jesus sleeping.

The disciples had not yet realised fully who Jesus actually was and therefore they feared the storm

Some Christians believe in the power of God but in practice doubt the fact of His presence in their own circumstances

Peace within storms

Jesus rebuked the wind and the waves like a parent who reigns in an unruly child

You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you still them (Psalm 89.9)

He calms the sea so that it's waves are still (Psalm 107.29)

Peace is NOT the absence of stressful circumstances but the presence of the Saviour within those circumstances

The purpose of storms

Did Jesus bring this particular storm on just for the purpose of teaching His disciples about the exercise of faith?

Ever hear a Christian make one of these statements;

If only my faith wasn't so weak

If my faith wasn't so defective I wouldn't be in this situation

I just wish I had more faith

If only Jesus would increase my faith

God uses the storms in our lives to build confidence in the exercising of our faith. Storms in our lives, like little else, teach us to;

Trust Him

Reverence Him (the fear of God)

Understand the depth of our own emptiness

Totally depend upon Him

The product of storms

Did Jesus ease their fears, or did He add to their fear?

“they feared exceedingly”

The disciples now became even more "afraid" than they had been when the wind and waves were swamping their boat. The Greek words Mark used, *ephobethesan phobon*, describe respectful awe that people feel in the presence of supernatural power. They had seen Jesus perform many healings and exorcisms, but this was a new revelation of the extent of His authority (cf. Ps. 107:23-30). Still, they did not understand who He really was, as is clear from their question.

“what manner of man is this that even the wind and the sea obey Him”

The disciples, sitting in a boat on a now calm sea, their debilitating fear of the raging sea now replaced by a reverential awe and fear of God

Storms in our lives should produce a realisation that as believers we are surrounded by a Holy Presence that is unimaginably powerful and awe inspiring.

The promises contained within storms

We have been told in scripture to expect to encounter storms

(James 1.2; I Peter 4.12-13)

We have received guidance on how to build our lives to be resilient in storms

(Matthew 7.24-27)

We are assured that in the storm the Saviour is on board

(Hebrews 13.5; Matthew 28.20)

The Word assures us of a safe landing

“Let us pass over to the other side” (Mark 4.35)

“And they came over unto the other side” (Mark 5.1)

The Word assures us of God's divine purpose in the storms

“But he knoweth the way that I take; When he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold” (Job 23.10)

“and he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness” (Malachi 3.3)