

Today – Our Subject is - *FAITH When the Storm HITS*

But - - it's NOT - IF you Have Faith
When the Storm Hits?

The Question is – WHAT Do you have Faith IN
When the Storm HITS?

& the Storms we're talking about today

Are NOT so much – the Storms – WE Bring on OURSELVES
Thru SIN & Disobedience - - *THAT'S a Different Message*

Today were looking at a storm that HIT the disciples

WHILE they were following Jesus
& WHILE Jesus was with them

& this storm - that HIT the Disciples
Showed them - WHAT their FAITH was Actually IN

& IF WE Will Put ourselves
IN that storm - WITH the Disciples today

God MAY REVEAL to US
WHAT Our Faith – is actually IN

Let's Pray

In **John 16:33** - **Jesus** promises us
that *in this world – we WILL have tribulation*

But then he says – ***TAKE HEART***
because I have overcome the world

& you may be saying this morning, ***“I know Jesus you have
overcome the world, but I’m the one in this storm today!”***

What did **Jesus mean** – **when** he said – ***“TAKE HEART, because
I have overcome the world”?***

1 John 5:4–5 helps us understand (ESV)

***4 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world.
And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.***

Our VICTORY is **IN & THRU** - **Jesus** Christ

Our part – is to **have more faith** - in **WHO Jesus is**
than we **have** - in the **CIRCUMSTANCES we See**

Here’s a question

What Determines – **HOW** we **RESPOND**
When the **Storm HITS** in our life ?

Here’s the Answer → → →

What you are Focused on

What **Consumes** your **thoughts**

What **Engulfs** you

is what **Determines** - how you **RESPOND** to the **Storm**

If we are **Focused on** – **Consumed By** - & **Engulfed In**
the **CIRCUMSTANCES** of our **Storm**

Then our **RESPONSE** will be - to **fall victim to the Storm**

But - **When the Storm HITS** - if we are **Focused on**
Consumed By - & **Engulfed In**

the Presence of **Jesus Christ**

& the **Knowledge** of **WHO Jesus IS** in our lives

Then we will **see Jesus** - as **so much BIGGER** than the **storm**

We will **see Jesus** - as **MASTER** over the **storm**
& **we** will **OVERCOME** the **storm** – **IN Christ**

Don't you **think** – **THAT** is what **Jesus means** - when he says,
“take heart, I have overcome the world”

Because he has **made it possible** for us

To **OVERCOME** the **Storms of this world** – **IN HIM**

So - Let's **“Put Ourselves”** on a **Boat**

With **Jesus & the Disciples** . . . **On the Sea of Galilee**

Mark 4:35–37 is where we start today (NLT)

35 As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, “Let’s cross to the other side of the lake.”

36 So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed).

37 But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water.

The **Sea of Galilee** is **FAMOUS** (still today)
for **Deadly Storms** whipping up out of **nowhere**

The **Sea of Galilee** is actually a **Large LAKE**
Surrounded on all **4 sides** by Mountains

& the **way** the **wind blows** in the **bowl** of these **mountains**
Can create **Deadly waves** – **Very Quickly**

So - a fierce storm comes up - High waves are breaking into the boat, and it begins to fill with water

& then we read - in Mark 4:38(a) (NLT)

38 Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion . . .

This statement has always **struck me** as **odd**

I’ve been on **small boats** - in **storms** –

& **twice** I’ve **genuinely felt** that my **life** was **in danger**

& so - knowing how it feels to be in a small boat in a storm like this
my only thought is . . . *I wonder if Jesus was faking it?*

Maybe - just maybe –

this was a setup
for an incredibly important lesson

that the Disciples HAD to learn
and that WE must Learn

Continuing - Mark 4:38(b) (NLT)

38 . . . The disciples woke him up, shouting, “Teacher, don’t you care that we’re going to drown?”

Jesus, don’t you care

that the Storm has HIT in my life - & I am going to DROWN!!

Isn’t that - OUR response so often?
Jesus don’t you CARE?

What we’re saying is – *Jesus, if you cared, you would never allow me to experience ANY Discomfort or Tribulation*

But - - - What if Jesus wants to USE that Storm in your life
FOR YOUR ULTIMATE GOOD?

<p><u>What if Jesus</u> is <u>NOT</u> as concerned with <u>fixing</u> your <u>Circumstances</u> <u>AS</u> he is with <u>using</u> your <u>circumstances</u> - to <u>fix YOU</u> ?</p>

So – we continue - in Mark 4:39 (NLT)

39 When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Silence! Be still!” Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm.

**& AS the Disciples were trying to Figure Out
WHAT had just happened**

We read in - Mark 4:40 (NLT)

40 Then he asked them, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?” (in Luke’s account – “Where is your faith?”)

Why are you afraid? - Where is your faith?

And Finally - Mark 4:41 (NLT)

41 The disciples were absolutely terrified. “Who is this man?” they asked each other. “Even the wind and waves obey him!”

**So – what I’d like you to do – is SEE Yourself
IN a storm - that you might be in today**

**Because - This storm the disciples are in
represents a storm that you may be in right now**

**& so - would you put yourself - in that boat with the disciples
on the Sea of Galilee that day**

**and LISTEN to an incredible description of this event
by Jon Bloom – in his great devotional book “Not By Sight”**

[start galilee video]

The sea was quiet now. And there was just enough breeze to push the boat along. The disciples were quiet too.

Andrew was steering. He had taken over for Peter, who sat wrapped in a cloak, exhausted and lost in thought. A few others were bailing out the remaining water.

Jesus was sleeping again.

James leaned on the bow gunwale watching reflections dance on the gentle waves. James knew this sea. He and John had spent most of their lives on it, or in it.

His father was a fisherman. So were most of his male family members and friends. His memory flashed with the faces of some of them who had drowned in the unpredictable Galilean windstorms like the one that had pummeled them moments earlier.

As seasoned fisherman, James was not alarmed easily - but he knew a man-eater when he saw it - - & this storm had opened its mouth to swallow them all into the abyss.

Terror had been in John's eyes when he grabbed James and yelled, we have to tell the master! They stumbled to the Stern. How Jesus had remained sleeping while the furious surf tossed the boat around was itself a wonder.

They woke him screaming, ***“Teacher, don’t you care that we’re going to drown?”***

James would never forget the way Jesus looked at him. His eyes were at once powerful and tranquil. With No trace of fear.

Laying aside the blanket, Jesus rose to full height on the rear deck. James, fearing Jesus was about to be pitched overboard, reached to grab him just as Jesus shouted, **PEACE! BE STILL!**

No sooner had those words left his mouth, and the wind was completely gone! The sudden hush of the howling was surreal.

The waves immediately began to subside. Every disciple FROZE where they were – Dumbstruck – Each one looking at the water and sky and each other – unable to SPEAK

Jesus' gaze lingered for a moment across the water - then he looked around at the 12 and said, **WHERE IS YOUR FAITH?**

Now, as James leaned on the bow he turned Jesus's question over and over in his mind

WHERE is my faith? When Jesus first said it, James felt its intended rebuke.

Didn't he trust God? He thought he did. But the storm proved that all the Faith he had OUTSIDE of the Storm – was only fair weather faith.

He felt chastened and humbled.

But the more James thought about the question the deeper it dug into him - **WHERE** is your faith? **Where?**

He HAD to admit to himself –

My faith is in what I see. My faith is in what I feel.

When the storm hit, I trusted what my eyes saw. I trusted the wind tossing the boat like a toy. I trusted the stories told by my father about these storms. I trusted the power of the storm . . .

Is that wrong?

Up until a few minutes before, that would have merely seemed like common sense. But Jesus had suddenly changed everything.

James looked back to the sleeping Jesus. He looked almost the same as when the storm was raging.

But which one of them had looked more powerful to James then?

A sleeping Jesus, or a Killer Storm?

But now, in fact – which one really WAS more powerful?

Jesus had killed the killer storm with a word.

James, & the disciples, were absolutely terrified – But, it was a very different kind of fear.

James thought, ***“Who is this man? That even the wind and waves obey him!”***

& James trembled at the Power he had just beheld

What Jesus did for his **disciples** in this **Storm**
Was a **FAITH-TRANSFER**

In the Storm – the **Disciples** Realized

That they had **more Faith**
in What they could **SEE & FEEL**
than **they had**
in the **AUTHORITY & POWER** of **Jesus**

They **believed MORE**
in the **Power of the STORM**

Than they **did**
in the **Power of the SAVIOR**

They had **MORE CONFIDENCE**
in **what** the **STORM** could Do

Than in what **Jesus COULD DO**
IN the Midst of the STORM

How About US ??

When the Storm HITS – in our lives
Do we have **More Faith** in **WHAT** the **Storm Can do**

Or **do** we have **More Faith** in what **Jesus Can Do**
IN the Midst of the Storm?

This storm was a **gift from God** to the **Disciples**

Because – **Experiencing** the **True Power & Authority** of **Jesus**
in the **Midst of the Storm**

TRANSFERRED their **Faith**
From their **CIRCUMSTANCES** – **to their LORD**

They would **NEVER again** look
at a Storm in their **life** – in the **same way**

AND – they **would never look** at **JESUS**
In the **same way** again

& **EVENTUALLY** – (after a **few more events** like this one)

These Disciples Developed
an **Unshakable Faith**
that **allowed them**
to **NOT** even SEE their **Circumstances**

But **ONLY to see** , **what** the **Lord** Might be **doing**
IN the MIDST of their **Circumstances**

Guys - **When the Storm HITS in your life**

It Will ALWAYS come down to this ONE THING → →

Do you have **MORE FAITH** - in the **STORM?**

OR Do you have **MORE FAITH** - in **WHO JESUS IS !**

& Pls – **Don't FOOL Yourself**

We **ALL** have **Fair-Weather FAITH**

We ALL have **Faith** in Jesus

when the **Skies** are **Blue** & **Waves** are **Calm**

ONLY THE STORM REVEALS

WHAT we truly **BELIEVE**

ONLY THE STORM REVEALS

WHAT we Truly have **FAITH IN**

Our Natural DEFAULT is

To have **MORE** Faith **In The STORM**

Than in the God - **who CONTROLS the Storm**

& So - We MUST Have a FAITH TRANSFER

We **must get** to **the Place**

Where we have **MORE FAITH**

in **WHO Jesus** Christ **IS** in **our Lives**

Than **we DO**

in the **Struggles & Difficulties** in **our Lives**

just yesterday the women spent all day – HERE
at the women's one day retreat

focused on EI ROI – “The God who SEES me”

Guys - Your God SEES when the Storm HITS
& Your God is IMMANUEL – “God With Us”

God SEES the storm Hitting in your life
& God has Promised to be WITH YOU in it

But - Here's a question

WHY does God so Often - seem to WAIT
until we think were gonna die

Before he SHOWS Himself
& commands the Storm to BE STILL?

Is it maybe - because we think so highly of ourselves

that we think we can command
the circumstances of our storm – without God?

Is God maybe waiting until we fully understand
that we are HELPLESS when the Storm HITS

& we NEED JESUS

To STILL the Storm and BRING PEACE into our lives

IS God WAITING

for us to BE - Finally & Completely - DONE

Before He STILLS our Storm?

When we are - DONE with our OWN STRENGTH

DONE with our OWN PLANS

DONE with our OWN EFFORT

& THEN – Jesus will STAND UP in the Middle of our Storm

& TELL IT – to BE STILL!

At Some Point – We must Learn to have MORE FAITH

in WHO Jesus Christ IS in our Life

Than we do in WHAT the STORM - Looks Like!

We've GOT to learn to have MORE FAITH

In the POWER of Jesus Christ in our lives

Than we do - in the POWER of the STORM

Jesus Wants to USE this Storm in Your Life

To Give you a FAITH TRANSFER

**He wants to bring you to a place
where you Believe MORE in WHO He is
Than what you SEE in the midst of your Storm**

God WANTS to DO SOMETHING in your Life

**That He can ONLY Accomplish
When you reach the END of your self
& the STORM is often the TOOL he uses - to get you there**

So – First – Be SURE – that you have received Jesus Christ
into the boat of your life – BEFORE you set sail

& when the Storm HITS –
make sure - Jesus is Right There close - WITH YOU

& then – you’ve GOT to hold on Tightly to him
Especially when you are in the storm’s darkest hour

and then – WAIT - & WATCH – For the POWER of Jesus
to STILL the Storm in your life

**WAIT - & WATCH – for Jesus
to stand up in the middle of your storm**

& Speak the Words “PEACE - BE STILL”

& then you BOW – In Reverent Fear

Before the Almighty God

who SEES us - & is WITH us – in Every Storm

Finally – Would you Picture yourself in your own storm
one more time

& would you honestly ASK yourself

IS my faith in What I SEE & FEEL in this storm

OR

Is my Faith in WHO The Lord Jesus is – in my life?

Do I have MORE FAITH
in the POWER of this STORM?

OR

Do I have MORE FAITH
In WHO Jesus Christ IS in My Life

Where is your Faith – When the Storm Hits?

Let's Pray