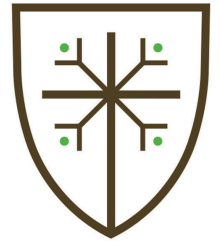


RIGHT IN THEIR OWN EYES

THE BOOK OF JUDGES

Sermons for Lent

SERMON NOTES



March 19, 2023

SERMON INFO

TITLE

Storm at Sea: We are weak, but He
is Strong

PREACHER

Dr. Dan Doriani

TEXTS

Judges 8:22-28

1 Corinthians 10:1-6

Matthew 14:22-33

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Jesus often calls us to step out of the boat in faith. Do you see a place in your life now or in the past where he has called you to step out in this kind of faith?
2. Dr. Doriani reiterated that this is not merely an allegorical story. Jesus really did walk on the water. How is that knowledge comforting in the midst of some of the stormy seas of our life?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, our guest preacher, Dr. Dan Doriani, lead us through a story not too dissimilar from the stories of characters we've seen in the book of Judges. This story, once again, shows us that despite of and often through the weak things of this world, God works his will and teaches us to rely on his goodness.

The story of Jesus walking on water is often misinterpreted in three different ways. First, as mere allegory: just about Jesus and me when the storms in my life come. Or secondly, as a moralistic fable: that Peter's example of faith is something for us to emulate. Or the reverse of that: Peter was a fool and we need to not do what Peter did.

But the story isn't about Peter, and it isn't about us. It's about Jesus. The stormy sea occurs right after Jesus feeds the 5,000. The people want a bread-making, miracle working Jesus. And so, Jesus slips away to pray by himself and the disciples head out to the other side of the lake. Jesus doesn't swoop in and calm the stormy waters immediately in this story. Jesus comes to them after they've been battered by the wind and rain for nearly 12 hours and gone nowhere. When he does show up, it is with the words "I am." As Dr. Doriani told us, "I am here" was a normal greeting, such as "It's me." But it is also the name of God given to Moses in the burning bush. Jesus is saying, I am here and I am God and I am here to take care of you.

When Jesus shows up, he calls Peter to him, telling him to step out on the water. And Peter does. He steps out in faith. As he sees the waves tossed by the wind, he begins sinking in fear and cries out to the Lord.

Just like Peter, you and I will forget about the power of God. When the waves rise up and the storms rage, we will all forget. But Jesus will not forget about us. Jesus both inspires faith in Peter and delivers him when his faith falters. And so too will he deliver us, even when our faith falters.