

“How To Navigate YOUR Storm!” - John 6:15-21

NKJV - *“Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone. Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, got into the boat, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was already dark, and Jesus had not come to them. Then the sea arose because a great wind was blowing. So when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid. But He said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.” Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going.”*

Recently, our staff enjoyed a special treat: a beautiful sailboat cruise to the small island of Palomino... captain... charts... breakers... crew... wind/waves...

All trials, all “storms of life” are different. Some are big; some are small; some are physical; some are emotional or spiritual. Some are brief; some are enduring and long, lasting weeks or months or even years. I believe we can navigate those storms; I believe we can have peace in the midst of them; and I believe that God will use them to transform our faith in Him, to be stronger than ever before. But for that to happen, there’s some things we need to know...3 things in particular. That’s why we’ve entitled this message “How To Navigate YOUR Storm”.

I. God’s PLANS are always available. (v.15-17)

II. Our PROBLEMS are only seasonal. (v.18,21b)

III. God’s POWER is daily receivable. (v.19-21a)

I. God's PLANS are always available.(v.15-17) -*“Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone. Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, got into the boat, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was already dark, and Jesus had not come to them.”*

- **Mark 6:45** - *“Immediately He made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while He sent the multitude away.”*

- First of all, in the storms of this life, remember that **JESUS is the CAPTAIN** of your ship, the CAPTAIN of your destiny!!
 - **Heb 2:10 NKJV** - *“..to make the Captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.”*
 - **Col 1:15 NLT** - *“Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation..”*
 - *In this life, you can make your plans and you should. You can set your agenda and you should. But just understand that if you, you write the*

script, that God always has editing rights. You set the course for the boat; God can always come in and alter the course... and He often does. In this life, remember: the weather is often unpredictable, Christ is the Captain of the ship, you are just a part of His crew."

- Secondly, in the storms of life, remember that **the PLANS of the Captain**, His sailing charts for the journey, **are always available for you to read!** His Word is always there to guide you!

- **Mark 6:45** - "Immediately *He made His disciples get into the boat and go* before Him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while He sent the multitude away." He commanded them to cross over - He gave the disciples His Word!

- **Ps. 119:105** - "Your Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path."

- **Acts 6:4** - "...we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word."

- **Eph 6:17** - "...the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God." (Matt 4:1-4)

- **"This Beat Up Bible"** by Little Big Town...

- **APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**

- What is **YOUR** relationship, right now, towards God's Word?

- Are you daily looking at the "**sailing charts**" of the Captain, to make sure you're on course?

- Are you regularly, letting your Captain share **His plans** with you, to strengthen you, encourage you, and to ensure you make it thru your storm?

II. Our **PROBLEMS are only seasonal.(v.18,21b) - "Then the sea arose because a great wind was blowing...immediately the boat was at the land where they were going."**

- The Greek word for "arose"

is "**διηγείρετο**" or "**diēgeireto**" meaning "**to wake up, to stir up, to arouse somebody from their sleep**"- it's a sudden awaking! Have you ever seen somebody just sort of get aroused from a deep sleep and you say like crazy things and you do weird things.

- The waves "**woke up**"; the sea "**woke up**" out of nowhere. It was sudden and unexpected. In life, haven't you noticed, that the "weather" changes unexpectedly? Have you noticed that you make plans? You set an agenda. You've got it all planned

out and then something happens. The circumstance blow a whole different direction. You didn't plan **this!**

- *A Jewish Proverb says: "Man always makes his little plans... and God changes them!"*
- *An anecdote in Reader's Digest said: "Expecting not to be treated badly just because you're a 'good person', is like expecting an angry bull not to attack you, just because you're a vegetarian."*

• **Reminds me of a man named **JOB** in the Old Testament.** His life was great! Everything was happening as planned. He had his children around him, he had his health, he had financial prosperity, he daily prayed for his children, he loved his God and then one day... **everything changed!** All of his children died—in a single day!

- **Job 1:13-19 NLT** - "One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting at the oldest brother's house, a messenger arrived at Job's home with this news: "Your oxen were plowing, with the donkeys feeding beside them, when the Sabeans raided us. **They stole all the animals and killed all the farmhands.** I am the only one who escaped to tell you." While he was still speaking, another messenger arrived with this news: "The **fire of God has fallen from heaven and burned up your sheep and all the shepherds.** I am the only one who escaped to tell you." While he was still speaking, a third messenger arrived with this news: "Three bands of Chaldean **raiders have stolen your camels and killed your servants.** I am the only one who escaped to tell you." While he was still speaking, another messenger arrived with this news: "Your sons and daughters were feasting in their oldest brother's home. Suddenly, a powerful wind swept in from the wilderness and hit the house on all sides. **The house collapsed, and all your children are dead.**"

- **1 Pet 5:8,9 NLT** - "Stay alert! **Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith.**" (Ephesians 6 - It's a battleground!)

- *"It's like having your tickets in hand and going down to a bus station or a train station, you've got your itinerary, it's in your hand. You've got your tickets; they're in your hand. You get down to the bus station or train station and somebody meets you there and says, um, I have different tickets for you. You're not going where you think you're going. You're gonna get on that train, not that train. And so you get on the train with these new tickets, you have really no idea what this about, but you ride that train and you don't get off of it for about a year. Some for many years. Some never get off that train, until the Lord takes them home to Heaven." - Pastor Skip Heitzig*
 - *That perfectly describes **HURRICANE MARIA**, doesn't it??*
 - *That perfectly describes **OUR PERSONAL STORMS**, doesn't it??*

- **Jn 10:10** - "**The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.**"

- **Jn 16:33** - *"Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."*
- **Ps. 107:28-31** - *"'LORD, help!' they cried in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He calmed the storm to a whisper and stilled the waves. What a blessing was that stillness as He brought them safely into harbor! Let them praise the LORD for his great love and for the wonderful things He has done for them."*
- **APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**
 - Do you realize that **YOUR** storm will not last forever? Will you choose to believe the Lord, to trust what He declares, that one day, perhaps very soon, your storm will be **FINISHED**.
 - Will you allow yourself to be encouraged by the fact that, one day, **your trial will be over**? (Job 23:10)

III. God's *POWER* is daily receivable.(v.19-21a) - *"So when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid. But He said to them, 'It is I; do not be afraid.' Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going."*

- Now if you put all the Gospel stories together, there are 3 things we discover about Jesus, and our storms: #1 - He **prays**. #2 - He **knows**. #3 - He **comes**.
- **JESUS *PRAYS* FOR YOU!** - **Mark 6:46** *"..when He had sent them away, He departed to the mountain **to pray**."* (Heb 7:25)
- **JESUS *KNOWS* ALL ABOUT YOU!** - **Mark 6:47-48a** - *"Now when evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea; and He was alone on the land. Then **He saw them** straining at rowing, for the wind was against them."* (Job 23:10; Ps. 139:1-6; Ps. 56:8)
- **JESUS WILL *COMET*O YOU!** - **Mark 6:48b** - *"Now about the fourth watch of the night **He came to them**.."* (Isa 41:10)

QUESTION: Why do you think Jesus walked on water, as He came to them?

- *Jesus came to them on the very thing they feared the most. They feared the storm. They were afraid of the storm. They'd been on this lake but there was no storm like this. They all thought they were going to die.*

- *Jesus came to them on the very thing they feared the most. That very thing, the one that terrified them, became the footpath of Christ to them. He showed them He was above it, beyond it, and could even use it to draw them to Himself! What about YOU??*

- **APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**

- Do YOU take the time, come to Jesus, and purposefully ask for His power?
- Do YOU turn to other things for power, for help, for relief.... or will you choose, after today, to turn to Jesus, and ask Him to come to you, empower you, and guide you thru your storm?

Now that leads me to end this sermon with a CAUTION:

Watch your ATTITUDE during your storm! - Here's why: a storm is very disorienting.

A storm tends toward, not only asking why, but it tends toward complaining, "Why Lord, why me, why now, why this?" And that questioning can lead to despising which can lead to bitterness.

Watch your attitude during a storm. When the writer of Hebrews talks about trials he says: my son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord. See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. Don't become so impatient, and so embittered, so angered, and so indifferent, that you get angry at God, become cynical in your faith, and even throw in the towel, walking away from Christ.

He's still working on you, and still working on me, because you're not anywhere near perfect yet. We've got a lot of growth to do, and because of that He's always going to be working on us all. Jesus knows everything that's going on and He knows everything you're going through, and He knows exactly what's best for you... so just trust Him, submit yourself to the trial, and let Him train you and strengthen you. You and I, must choose to keep worshipping, and choose to keep rejoicing in Christ's plan for us.

What makes you different from an unbeliever, is that they go thru storms too... but they have no point of reference. It's just a "bad thing that happens to everybody". But not for you.... as a disciple of Jesus, you know that for you, the **storm was timed**, the **storm was planned**, the **storm is temporary**, and the **"Captain of the storm" is with you** to strengthen you!!