

Silent Killers
- Apathy

August 25, 2021

Stewardship - the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving: (a surrogate)

Apathy - absence or suppression of passion, emotion, or excitement.

Zephaniah 1:12-13 (NIV)

¹² At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs, who think, 'The Lord will do nothing, either good or bad.'

¹³ Their wealth will be plundered, their houses demolished. Though they build houses, they will not live in them; though they plant vineyards, they will not drink the wine."

"The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference."

Mark 6:45-52 (NLT)

- right after Jesus feeds the five thousand, the disciples who just witnessed a miracle where faced with challenge that exposed their apathy.....

Jesus Walks on Water

⁴⁵ Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and head across the lake to Bethsaida, while he sent the people home. ⁴⁶ After telling everyone good-bye, he went up into the hills by himself to pray.

⁴⁷ Late that night, the disciples were in their boat in the middle of the lake, and Jesus was alone on land. ⁴⁸ He saw that they were in serious trouble, rowing hard and struggling against the wind and waves. About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. He intended to go past them, ⁴⁹ but when they saw him walking on the water, they cried out in terror, thinking he was a ghost. ⁵⁰ They were all terrified when they saw him.

But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage! I am here!" ⁵¹ Then he climbed into the boat, and the wind stopped. They were totally amazed, ⁵² for they still didn't understand the significance of the miracle of the loaves. Their hearts were too hard to take it in.

- the disciples became more passionate about what was happening **to their boat** in the storm than they were about the authority that was already **in the boat**. Their lack of faith exposed their apathy. They had lost sight of the authority that was already **in the boat**.

How did their hearts become hardened right after they witnessed a miracle? I believe that in their frailty, in their flesh, in their fatigue, they became apathetic.

Here's something we forget about his story: The Lord was already on the water. The Lord didn't decide to walk upon the water because there was a storm. He was already on the water when the storm began. The scripture even says, "He intended to go past them". But in a moment, the apathy and fear that was **on the boat** was overshadowed by who climbed **into their boat**.

1. Apathy will cause you to turn inward and become complacent concerning the authority you have as a child of God.

2. Apathy will cause you to question the identity of Christ.

- they thought he was a ghost
- let us not forget and be insensitive to the beautiful tapestry of how God can move, touch, speak, change, develop, restore, redirect, remove, replace, and rebuke the storms in our lives!
- I often wonder how this account in scripture would've been different had the disciples taken authority over the storm.

- I wonder how many of our own circumstances would be different if we were to take authority over our storms and not not have a personal identity crisis and forget the authority that the Lord himself has given us!

3. Jesus mirrored their response to the storm.

- think about this: their response to the storm was purely physical, human, and natural. Jesus could've immediately appeared in their boat super-naturally. Instead, He climbed into their boat. Jesus left his super-natural identity (walking on water) and shifted into a human response by climbing into their boat. Even in the midst of apathy and fear, Jesus extends a grace to us because He can relate to our human frailty. He is able to function in super-natural and natural miracles. Notice that he didn't say, "Hey, you wimpy, yellow belly, terrible excuse for men! What's your problem! You're just not super-natural enough!" He simply associated with his human-nature by choosing to climb into their boat under his own physical strength.

It doesn't matter to me if Jesus wants to super-naturally appear to us, or to naturally appear to us, I just need Him to be ever-present! How isn't as important as who!

Romans 12:9-13 (NLT)

9 Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. 10 Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. 11 Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. 12 Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. 13 When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

“The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference.”

4. Apathy will choke the life out of the fruits of the spirit in your life.

- indifference regarding love will result in neglect
- indifference regarding joy will result in a lack of strength
- indifference regarding peace will result in insecurity
- indifference towards patience leads to unstable character
- indifference towards kindness will lead to loneliness
- indifference towards goodness will lead to lawlessness
- indifference towards faithfulness will result in crippled passion
- indifference in the area of gentleness will lead to brokenness
- indifference towards self-control makes “self” a God

How do we cancel apathy in our lives?

1. Reaffirm your spiritual authority and identity.

- story about Melodie seeing an angel defending Blake when he was laying in his crib.
- “the same spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in me”. “It will quicken my mortal body!”

2. Repent of your indifference.

- a double minded man is unstable in all of his ways.
- luke-warm pursuit of God, luke-warm worship, luke-warm love, luke-warm loyalty, luke-warm relationship

3. Return to your first love.

- this means to return to what is of foremost importance.
- get your priorities back in order.