

Secrets Of The Storm

August 21, 2016

Mark 4:35-41 That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

I. Five Secrets of the Storm

1. A Storm Is Bound To Blow Your Way.

Mark 4:37 A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped.

A. Types of Storms

- A Natural Storm
- A Seasonal Storm
- A Spiritual Storm

Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

1 Peter 1:6-7 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

- A Personal Storm

Psalms 112:7 They will have no fear of bad news; their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

B. Storms are a normal part of life.

- At Calvary, we are more concerned about names than numbers.

- At Calvary, we are more concerned about souls than seats.

C. The reality of the storm should not stop the vitality of your life.

2. *Storms Can Bring Out The Worst In Us*

Mark 4:38 Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”

A. Storms cause fear

- We lose our confidence when we become afraid.

B. Storms cause frustration

- We lose our perspective when we become frustrated.
- We become frustrated with disappointing obedience

Mark 4:35 That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.”

- We become frustrated with divine absence

Mark 4:38 Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”

C. Storms cause despair

- We lose our hope when we despair.

3. *God Is Greater Than The Storm*

Mark 4:39 He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

Mark 1:25-26 “Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

A. Jesus has authority over the natural and the supernatural.

B. There is power in the words of God.

John 1:1-5 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

4. We Weather The Storm Through Faith And Not Fear

Mark 4:40 He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

A. Fear feeds a storm.

- The enemy of faith is doubt.
- The opposite of faith is fear.
- Faith is not wishful thinking but worship trust.

B. Lower your freak factor by raising your faith factor.

- God's Word raises our faith.
- God's people raise our faith.
- God's presence raises our faith.

5. We Must Not Forget The Lessons Of The Storm.

Mark 4:41 They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

A. Do not let the storm defeat you. God is greater than the storm.

1 John 4:4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

B. Do not let the storm define you. God is faithful through the storm.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

C. Do not let the storm distract you. God is working through the storm.

D. Jesus is more concerned about the state of your soul than the strength of your storm.