

# UPCOMING

*EVENTS*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Bible study & Intercessory Prayer – tonight – 6:30
- Wednesday - Bible Study / Class on Intercession /Armor of God Study (Stephanie's House)- 6:30 PM
- Sunday morning classes start June 27 – still waiting on curriculum –
  - Nursery – Sadie
  - Tommy Gay – adult class – fellowship hall
  - Jack & Brian – Wired Word – current events – front office
  - Class on Holy Spirit – no age limit, but... - my office
  - Cody – 7-12
  - Carol – 5-6
  - Qorban – 3-4
  - Rachael – 1-2
  - John & Brody– littles –

# INTEGRITY



Mark 4:35-38 (NIV) <sup>35</sup> That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” <sup>36</sup> Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. <sup>37</sup> A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. <sup>38</sup> 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?”

# INTEGRITY

A painting of three lions in a dark, dramatic setting. The lions are rendered in shades of brown and gold, with detailed fur and intense expressions. One lion is in the foreground, looking towards the viewer, while two others are behind it, one looking to the side and another partially visible. The background is dark and moody, suggesting a cave or a night scene.

- If Jesus tells us to do something, then will it get done?
- If Jesus asks you to do something, will He abandon you?
- Who can stop the Lord Almighty?
- Our God is greater; our God is stronger; Awesome in power
- Therefore, Jesus' command should have been all the disciples needed to cross that sea in peace and security
- However, the storm raged around them
- They fell prey to two attacks of the enemy: distraction and growing weary
- The storm distracted them, and the struggle tired them
- The result: they doubted and their trust in Jesus wavered.
- They were ready to give up



# INTEGRITY: Part 6

Staying the Course

# STAYING THE COURSE



- Galatians 6:9-10 (NIV) <sup>9</sup> Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.
- Philippians 3:4 (NASB) I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

# STAYING THE COURSE



- Every day we read more disturbing and discouraging news
- The storm continues to rage as our boat gets knocked about
- I fear the church may grow weary of the storm and give up
- If we do so, we are joining the world instead of being the salt
- In addition, the constant reports can distract us from what is truly important: Jesus and His Word
- Paul knew this day was coming, so he warned us not to grow weary
- We are in a battle, and it will not be won in a few months
- Yet, even though the storm rages, the Lord will give us opportunity to do good to ALL people
- Yes, that means those who oppose Jesus, the Word, and us
- Seek first His Kingdom and righteousness, and He will order everything else

# STAYING THE COURSE



2 Peter 1:5-10 (NIV) <sup>5</sup> For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; <sup>6</sup> and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; <sup>7</sup> and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. <sup>8</sup> For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble,



# STAYING THE COURSE

- Luke 9:59-62 (NIV) <sup>59</sup> [Jesus] said to another man, “Follow me.” But the man replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” <sup>60</sup> Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” <sup>61</sup> Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family.” <sup>62</sup> Jesus replied, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

# STAYING THE COURSE



- Jesus' words sound very harsh, but we know He is not
- It sounds as if He is taking away life instead of giving the abundant life
- However, we know that is not true
- He had a duty to his parents, just as commanded in the Ten Commandments
- He is giving reasons why he cannot follow Jesus immediately
- Yet, if we are not careful, those freedoms can distract us from our calling
- Those freedoms can get us to take our eyes off of Jesus
- Now, Jesus is not condemning any of us
- He is asking us to examine what is really important to us
- Integrity stays the course and does not make excuses

# STAYING THE COURSE



- Joshua 23:6 NASB) Be very firm, then, to keep and do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, so that you may not turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left,
  - Integrity remains firm in its resolve to speak, act, and walk as Jesus did
  - If we are the salt of the earth, then let us be salt
  - If we are the light of the world, then let our light shine
  - If we are to speak the truth to combat the lies of the enemy, then let us open our mouths
  - Our yes should be yes and our no, no, based upon the Word and not on the world or personal preference.
  - However, if we are wrong, we will not stick with the wrong answer to save our pride.
  - Integrity remains in the boat with its eyes on the far shore

# STAYING THE COURSE

- Hebrews 12:1-2 (NIV) <sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

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- 2 Peter 3:9 (NIV) The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

# STAYING THE COURSE



- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV) <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
- For the scripture to be profitable, it has to do more than point out a problem
- It is easy to see problems
- However, when Integrity sees a problem, it finds a solution
- When integrity sees a need, it steps forward

# STAYING THE COURSE



- So,
  - Who will be responsible of the baptistry?
  - Who will help with the webpage?
  - When are we going to get busy on the building?
- Integrity sees a need fills it.
- This does not mean it volunteers for everything.
- It listens for the lord and steps forward.
- Important: Integrity is not motivated by guilt or a desire to please others
- Integrity desires to please Jesus

# STAYING THE COURSE



- Romans 12:1 (NIV84) Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.
  - It is impossible to follow Jesus without making sacrifices – of time, relationships, finances, talents, etc.
  - Yet, those sacrifices must be willing sacrifices
  - It is easy for us to look at others and say, “They should do this or that.”
  - It is our personal decision to offer ourselves to God
  - Abraham decided to sacrifice Isaac
  - Esther decided to sacrifice herself when she went to the king





# DANIEL

*LIVING A LIFE OF FAITH*

*DANIEL 6:23*

**GOD BLESS**

*HAVE A FANTASTIC WEEK*