

Jesus in the Storms of Life

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Matthew 14:22-33

1. Doubt in the Darkness

Verse 22: Jesus _____ the disciples get into the boat and go ahead!



Some Principles:

- God is in our sin, and ugliness. He is not in just the good times; he is here all the time.
- That Christ would be there whether he was bodily present or not.
- God's strength is perfected in our weakness



2. Jesus Shows Up!

Even in ministry. . . I can be tempted not to step out in faith, but rely on **risk management logistics**:

1. Try to _____ the situation
2. Try to _____ it on our own
3. _____ blocks our eyes from the presence of the

Lord

3. Distraction in the Distance

- He cried out – Lord save me!
- That is all we can pray at times:
 - God I need you
 - Lord have mercy
 - Lord, help me – the prayer of the Canaanite woman in Matt 15: 25.
 - “Teach me what I do not see” Job 34:32



Principles to Wean:

- We don't like trials, and don't like pain. But we also don't like who we are in our trials and what it reveals about us:
 - Weak, needy, vulnerable, insecure, scared
- Offering our heart to God in trials is real prayer. We are offering not just the “good” part, but the whole self. We often only give God parts of our hearts. (our perfect, sinless, Christian self)
- Personal weakness shows us all the ways in which we are not God
- Quote: “Paul teaches that God's way of exhibiting power is altogether different from man's way. Man tries to overcome his weakness; God is satisfied to use weakness for his own special purposes. Too many Christians become disheartened over their infirmities, thinking that only if they were stronger in themselves they could accomplish more for God. But this point of view, despite its popularity, is altogether a fallacy. God's means of working, rightly understood, is not by making us stronger, but by making us weaker and weaker until the divine power alone is clearly manifested” (David Alan Black, “Paulus Infirmus: The Pauline Concept of Weakness,” Grace Theological Journal, 92)

