

J.J.

LORD, WAKE UP
Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Psalm 116:15 "Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of His saints"
2 Corinthians 5:8 "We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord."

Nanay Luning is now home with the Lord. What a glorious day for her!!!

- Encouraging face
- Dalubhasa sa salitang Tagalog
- Faithful servant of the Lord. Gutom na gutom sa Salita ng Dios.
- So happy when she is able to share the Gospel or I can see the joy in her eyes when she invited someone to the church to hear God's Word.
- Brings her two apos always
- Loving to her family and to Tatay Ver

"Well done, good and faithful servant"

- She will always say a name of an apo or pamangkin or a child to be prayed for during first Sunday of the month during announcement of birthdays

Pray for the birthday celebrants of September

Today's sermon

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

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.

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

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

Pray

Background :

This story can also be seen in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. So when we study this today, we will be toggling between Matthew, Mark and Luke.

Synoptic : Please remember that Matthew, Mark and Luke are called the “synoptic” gospels. Synoptic comes from the word “sunopticus” – seeing the whole together.

Seeing things from different angles : Usually, some people would say there are discrepancies or contradictions between how Matthew or Mark or Luke is telling a particular story and that's one of the arguments being used by the enemies of the Bible to say that it is not God's Word. But we have to remember that the writers were seeing the life of Jesus based on their own angles or experiences or purpose. It's like all of you looking at me right now, you know I'm preaching, but from your physical point-of-view, if you are at the back, you see me smaller compared from how the people in front see me. Or the one on my left is seeing a different angle of me compared to the people at my right. Or if there's a person at the back, he sees me preaching but he sees my back and all of you. So when I ask you to write down details of what you see, I'm pretty sure you will be saying that this day I was preaching but there will be different details in the story depending on the angle where you are seated.

Almost the same angle : But this is one of those stories in the synoptic gospels, that it seems everyone was looking at this story from almost the same angle.

1. All of the gospel synoptic writers, wrote about a dangerous storm.
2. They all wrote about Jesus sleeping and the disciples waking Him up.
3. They all wrote about Jesus quieting the storm and the winds became calm.
4. They all wrote about Jesus rebuking them about their lack of faith.
5. They all wrote about the reactions of the disciples.

But aside from this, we know the Holy Spirit placed this in the Bible to give us a lesson on what we need to do when we pass through the storms in our own lives.

All of us in one way or another have passed through storms in our lives. You might even be in one right now. So what do we need to do when we are in a storm?

Before anything else let's have a

A Word About Storms

1. Storms can happen to a follower.

We have to remember that the ones inside the boat are disciples of our Lord and

- It was our Lord Jesus Christ who asked them to sail that evening.

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

- The folks that were with him are the committed followers.

36 Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him.

If you're also going to look at Matthew's account. Before they rode the boat, some people from the crowds were saying to Jesus, “I will follow you wherever you go.” (Mt 8:19) Jesus will be replying

“Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”

This means in order for you to follow Christ, we need to get ready to get out of our comfort zone.

Another one was saying *“Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” (Mt 8:21)* Jesus would reply, *“Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”*

(Note on this verse : Jesus wasn't being insensitive here. Based on context; historical and biblical, the meaning of the man who said “first let me go and bury my father”, is that based on Jewish culture, that the father isn't dead yet but he's still waiting for his father to pass away and then he can get their inheritance)

Following Christ means that He becomes our No.1 priority.

So these are the committed followers of Christ.

The question is, “Are you a committed follower of Christ or are you just one of the crowds who follow Jesus because of what we can get out of Him?

The reason why the Bible needed to mention that these people who experienced the storm were His committed followers is **to show that we as Christians are not immuned to experience the storms of life.**

Jesus said,

John 16:33 In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Now there's always a purpose behind why our Father allows His children to pass through storms. I love this quote :

Quote : *“In adversity we usually want God to do a removing job when He wants to do an improving job. To realize the worth of the anchor, we need to feel the storm.”* (Source Unknown)

2. Storms can arrive in a flash

37 A furious squall came up,

What's a squall? a sudden violent gust of wind or a localized storm,

That's why in Matthew's account, he wrote :

Matthew 8: 24 Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake,

Isn't that what happens sometimes when trials come into our life, it's sudden or without warning.

For example :

- A person who is working gets suddenly called by his boss telling him that today is his last day at work.
- A wife eating dinner with her husband and he breaks the news that he wants a divorce.
- Or in today's case, a sudden death in the family.

Quote : Trials are like the weather, they are unpredictable.

Now storms can arrive without warning and they can also be furious.

3. Storms can be furious

37 A furious squall came up

Matthew 8: 24... a furious storm came up on the lake...

Etymology : furious “megas” great

Storms can be so great that it can put you or your loved ones in real danger.

Luke 8:23...A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.

Remember that most of the disciples where veteran fishermen. That's their occupation. When fishermen are panicking inside a boat, you know that they are in real danger of dying.

Recent study shows that 48% of Canadians are living paycheque to paycheque. It means every time, their paycheque comes in, all of it just goes into paying bills and obligations. What's the main reason? Debt. The top 3 debts are mortgage, credit card and car loans. So this means, when they suddenly lose a job, they are in real danger that they can lose their house, their car or creditors will be knocking on their doors and it can cause great stress.

Common Reactions to Storms in Life

a.) Panic

Matthew 8: 25 The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" ref also to Luke 8:24

Obviously, they don't know what to do next and that's why they panic.

Severe stress, such as the death of a loved one, divorce, or job loss can also trigger a panic attack

Scientifically, here's what happens to our mind and body when we panic.

1. Hypersensitivity – your mind amplifies the experience.

(It makes something that is already big even bigger)

2. Physical changes in your body such as rapid heartbeat, difficulty breathing (hyperventilation), weakness or pain somewhere in the body, trouble focusing

The reason why I underlined “trouble focusing” is because when you can't think well, you can't think of your next steps, you freeze and your stress increases.

3. Feeling of doom and intense dread.

This is one of the common reactions to storms is

b.) Frustration

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?"

When we get frustrated, that's the time we start blaming other people for our circumstances or attacking other people.

Listen carefully : But the **real main reason** we become frustrated is because we realize we are not in control of the situation and our natural reaction is we want to take control of it again immediately and when we can't do anything, that's when we blame or attack other people.

This is what happened to the disciples. Remember, they were veteran fishermen and you know they are not already in control and their frustration led them to bring their frustration to someone who seems to be not caring at all.

c.) Fear

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

This is where it gets bad, when there is now fear.

Etymology : afraid "deilos" "faithless, cowardly"

The reason why fear is bad because it shows a lack of faith.

That's why Jesus asked them :

Luke 8: 25 "Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples.

Good exercise when someone is being fearful for no reason at all. Ask them, "Where is your faith?"

Quote : Fear is the exact opposite of faith and faith is the antidote to fear.

The sign that we lack faith is when start to fear, when we start to worry, when we start to be anxious.

The only antidote to fear or worry or anxiety is faith!!!

That's the reason there are so many verses in the Bible to be strong, courageous and not fear.

Let's look at the reaction of our Lord Jesus Christ in the storm.

Matthew 8: 24c.... But Jesus was sleeping.

Why was Jesus sleeping? He's tired. After a whole day of teaching and healing...of course he will get tired.

Where was He sleeping?

Mark 4:38 Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion.

The stern is the back part of the ship. And he's even using a pillow to lay his head (

What is the most difficult thing when you are afraid or worried?

You can't sleep.

Story : Didn't know I needed to have a deposit to the house. Didn't sleep the whole night and my spine was aching but my wife called me the following day....

You know the reason why Jesus was sleeping in the midst of a great storm?

I'll tell you later.

What should we do when we are in the midst of a storm?

I. Remember that God is present

Mk 4:36 they took him along, just as he was, in the boat.

Matthew 8: 23 Then he got into the boat

Application :

If Christ is with you, nothing is going to happen to you without God's permission.

God's promise?

Isaiah 43: But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob,

And He who formed you, O Israel:

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by your name;

You are Mine.

2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you.

When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned,

Nor shall the flame scorch you.

3 For I am the Lord your God,

The Holy One of Israel, your Savior;

III. Remember that God is powerful

Matthew 8:26 Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm

Mark 4:39 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.

Luke 8:24b He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm.

"epitimao" rebuked "to impose tax" "censure"

"completely calm" means it suddenly stopped...no wind or waves at all.

It showed that GOD HAS POWER OVER EVERYTHING!!!

The disciples forgot where they just came from before they rode the boat.

If we read the whole of Matthew 8...**They just saw that Jesus performing awesome miracles** which shows He has authority and power over sickness, disease and etc. etc.

And now they are in the middle of a storm, they quickly forgot that JESUS IS WITH THEM AND HE IS THE POWERFUL SON OF GOD!!!

We are such forgetful people. We praise Him when something good happens to us but quickly panics and forgets that the Lord is there. when something wrong is happening

IF JESUS IS WITH THEM, THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO BREATHE EVEN IF THEY GO UNDER
ano ngayon kung lumubog ang barko at baka magulat sila na nakakahinga sila sa ilalim ng tubig habang natutulog pa rin si Hesus doon? Or lumubog man ang barko, magulat na lang sila, lahat sila nakatayo sila sa ilalim ng tubig at natutulog pa rin si Hesus.

Is anything too hard for God?

Remember that God has power over everything.

Luke 8:25:In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him

Application : This is the wonder of worship “fear and amazement”

True worship is the result of remembering these two things. GOD IS WITH US AND HE IS LORD!!!! **That's why can praise Him in the midst of the storm** because we know He has power over everything

CONCLUSION :

Story : Korean missionaries in a Bangka and the waves were high. They were really afraid but we noticed that the “timon” is still smiling and even laughing at us. So I told them, don’t worry because the “timon” is still smiling, meaning he is in control. Just look at him.

That's what we should do when there's a sudden storm in our lives, just look at Jesus, He is in control.

THE ANSWER : Now you know why Jesus is sleeping in spite of the storm?

Remember, He was the one who told the disciples to go to the boat and sail.

Remember, that He really planned to use that time to rest sleep. He was sleeping in the stern

The reason why Jesus can sleep through the storm is because He knows He is in control of the entire situation.

Quote : If God can sleep through a storm, maybe we can too.

S.G.D.