

The Savior Over The Storm

John 6:16-21

The Danger of the Storm (John 6:16-18) We see the disciples in a little storm here. We know that storms can kill. Wind kills, lightning kills, and the disciples are in a boat, which can capsize and kill them. I've lived through a few hurricanes, and so have many of you. I was out with Caleb the other day while he was playing golf and I noticed what appeared to be a tree ripped in half by lightning on the golf course. My great uncle was struck by lightning while playing golf. From my understanding, he took shelter under a metal building, and he also had metal golf spikes on. We will have storms in our life! Jesus tells us in John 16:33 ***"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."***

Why do these storms happen? Why do bad things happen? Storms happen so that we will have desperate dependency upon an even stronger Savior! Why are Americans not in church? They are not in church because they're not desperate. Their storms are solvable or so they think. We see this desperate dependency by the disciples in the next few verses.

The Dependency Upon the Savior (John 6:19-21) The disciples were rowing in the storm and a ghost like figure is walking on water. They were afraid! In fact, Matthew 14:22-33 and Mark 6:45-56 both recount this occurrence and both of those authors use the word "terrified." In this account as well as the Matthew and Mark account listen to what Jesus tells them in verse 20 "It is I" do not be afraid." The phrase "It is I" can be translated in Greek "I am". Just like in Exodus 3:14 when God tells Moses, I am. Jesus is telling the disciples "I am" God, I'm over this storm! One of my favorite movies is "Facing the Giants." Mark Richt, the University of Georgia's football coach at the time of the movie, makes an appearance in the movie and says that the phrase "fear not" is in the bible 365 times, once for every day. It's really only in the Bible more than 100 times in the Old Testament and 44 times in the New Testament. Coach Richt, It's ok, we get the point. One of my favorite verses is Isaiah 41:10 stating that truly God is always with us. ***"fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*** If God is with us, what do storms teach us?

a. Storms teach us to focus on the Savior. (v. 20) We see this in verse 20, but we see it even more in Matthew's account in which Peter lost focus on Jesus. Hold your place in John 6, yet turn with me to Matthew 14:28-31 ***"And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." 29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, [a] he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"*** Peter lost his focus on Christ didn't he?

b. Storms teach us that the Savior fulfills our peace. (v.21) Look at the word in this verse, glad. “Then they were glad to take him into the boat...” The opposite of fear is peace. There is a great peace that only Jesus can give to us. Have you placed Jesus in your boat? In Matthew 8:23-27, Mark 4:35-41, and Luke 8:22-25 Jesus calms the storm, but is first asleep. Paul reminds Timothy of this peace in 2 Timothy 1:7 “for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.” What about what Jesus tells us in John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” Jesus himself tells us that peace only comes from Him. The disciples had experienced another miracle of Christ. Psalm 107:23-30 refers to God has the Lord of the sea: ***“23 Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the great waters; 24 they saw the deeds of the Lord, his wondrous works in the deep. 25 For he commanded and raised the stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea. 26 They mounted up to heaven; they went down to the depths; their courage melted away in their evil plight; 27 they reeled and staggered like drunken men and were at their wits' end. 28 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. 29 He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. 30 Then they were glad that the waters were quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven.*”**

Some people might say, “Pastor, I going to play it safe.” They won’t get in the water, they won’t take chances, but Jesus requires us to get in the water, to take chances, in order to follow Him. You cannot be on the shoreline in Christianity, you either dive into the water to follow Jesus or you will not follow Him. Storms will come, but rest assured that Jesus is greater than any storm you will ever face!