

“AFTER CLASS DECISIONS”

Text: Mark 4:35 – 5:1

Subject: After Class Decisions (That Will Change Your Life Forever)
Preached at V.F.C.C. Chapel 12/1/2003

Introduction

(Our text has an incredible setting)

- ◆ On one side (In Mark 4) Jesus has been teaching parables from a boat.
- ◆ He teaches about the sowers, the power in the seed and the soil of the heart.
- ◆ He teaches how secrets that are hidden, will soon be revealed.
- ◆ He teaches about faithfulness, and how God can trust you with more.
- ◆ He teaches us about the power of Divine life in the soul (first the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear).
- ◆ How in verse 27, God works in your life and the last four words of verse 27, “You knoweth not how” (means) you don’t need to know all the answers to trust in the One who does know all the answers.
- ◆ On the other side of our text is Mark 5 (Three overcoming victories).

Jesus overcomes demons in a man called Legion. (Mark 5:2-20)

Jesus overcomes disease in a woman who is sick. (Mark 5:35-43)

Jesus overcomes death in the daughter of Jarius. (Mark 5:21-34)

In Other Words

- ◆ In Mark 4:1-34, we have the classroom **learning**.
- ◆ In Mark 5, we have the **loosing** of demons, death and disease.

(But in between the two, we have the lesson on living)

- ◆ It’s a lesson from Jesus to your heart.
- ◆ It’s a revelation of the heart of God.
- ◆ It’s Jesus talking to us about something.
- ◆ It’s truth that sets us free to be spiritually whole and healthy on campus.

Question: What’s the message of our text?

Question: What does Jesus want the disciples to put into practice (after learning the Word all day on the shore? (Classroom)

Question: Why is this passage in your Bible in Matthew 8, Luke 8 and Mark 4?

Question: What is Jesus after (both then and now?)

Question: And what difference will it make in your life (so you will never be the same again)?

(Questions)

“I have to make some important decisions in the next two weeks during break.”

“I’m not sure if my boyfriend (or girlfriend) is God’s will for my life.”

“I haven’t got a boyfriend or girlfriend.”

“I have no idea what I’m going to do when I get out of here at graduation.”

“I need money and I don’t know where it’s coming from.”

“I’m struggling with secret sins on campus that no one is aware of.”

“I feel all alone here in the midst of a crowd.”

“I’ve been wounded deeply and unfulfilled expectations have broken my heart.”

“What’s the word of the Lord to my heart today?”

(Three words that will save your life.)

Without these three, nothing you learn in the classroom will be of any use to you!

I. The Call (Reveals Word #1)

Question: What is the call of Jesus in our text?

Answer: It is recorded in verse 35: "Let us pass over unto the other side."

- ◆ Jesus has been teaching in the classroom all day.
- ◆ The VFCC students have been drinking it in.
- ◆ But now it's time for a practical test to see how much was really learned.

In Plain Vanilla

- ◆ Jesus closes a day of labor.
- ◆ He is weary and in need of rest.
- ◆ He cannot land from the boat that has been His pulpit (all day long).
- ◆ The throng of the crowd is too thick.
- ◆ So, the only way to get away from the crowd is to cross the lake.

Question: Jesus could cross over alone, but He gives the invitation (the call) to His disciples. (What does He say?)

"Come on friends, I have a plan in mind, let's pass over to the other side."

Question: What is Jesus after?

Answer: Word #1 – **Obedience** (to the will of God.)

- ◆ It may seem a little illogical, there was no Triple A trip-tic or computer to pull up MapQuest and the disciples have two choices. (Only two).

#1 Stay on shore and play it safe (or)

#2 Step on the boat and live their lives for the glory of God.

Question: What is it that will allow you to be a healthy and joyful person on campus? (And after campus?)

Answer: Instant obedience to call to live your life for the glory of God.

Question: Know why you were created?

Answer: Isaiah 43:6, "Bring my sons and my daughters, called by my name, for I have created them for my Glory."

You were created for the glory of God and **obedience** is step #1 to glorify God.

- ◆ Immanuel Kant, the German Philosopher who died in 1804 said, "**Obedience** secures and increases our joy in God."
- ◆ Charles Spurgeon said, "Things that distract from **obedience** to God are buckets of cold water thrown upon the zeal of our soul."
- ◆ James Denny said, "Worship is not only hearing the Word of God, it is hearing it with vows of new **obedience**."
- ◆ Charles Crabtree said in our pulpit, "If our worship doesn't end in **obedience**, then our worship is a dead end street."

(Remember This)

- ◆ "Our progress in God will go no further than our **obedience** takes us."

- ◆ William Temple (the Archbishop of Canterbury from 1942-1944) said “Worship is to open the heart to the love of God and **devote the will to the purpose to God.**”
- ◆ Cotton Mather preached in New England 300 years ago and said, “The preacher is to restore **the throne of God in the hearts of the listeners.**”

(Is God on the throne of your heart?)

Question: Is your obedience slipping a little? (In any way?)

Question: Any buckets of water on the zeal of your soul?”

Question: Has God been speaking to you about:

- ◆ Too much TV and computer games?
- ◆ Too busy playing to pray?
- ◆ Has the power of sin been drawing you away from the Lord?
- ◆ Thinking about the party life over Christmas break?
- ◆ Has your dating life gotten too hot and heavy when alone?
- ◆ Putting any magazine trash or movie trash in your mind?
- ◆ Have the little sins replaced your fervent devotional life?
- ◆ Is your goal on campus to be liked by people (more than obedient to God)?

Psalm 123:2 says:

“Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes wait upon the Lord our God until that He have mercy upon us.” (Psalm 123:2)

- ◆ In Biblical times, the heads of households had hand signals for different situations.
- ◆ Their servants understood the signals and quickly carried them out.
- ◆ In order to know what to do, the servants had to keep their eyes on the hands of their masters at all times.
- ◆ Their own plans and agendas were always subject to the hand signals of their masters.

In Other Words

(The Psalmist Reveals An Awesome Truth)

#1. We must remain flexible in serving God at all times.

#2. We must live submitted (continually) to the leading of the Lord.

#3. We must yield to the Lord (daily) as the Scripture says in Psalm 123:2

“As the servant’s eyes looked at their masters hands, so we must look at our master’s hands, waiting for His signals.”

Oswald Chambers said...

“One life yielded to God at all costs is worth thousands only touched by God.”

John Maxwell says.

“Ordinary people with absolute obedience make an extraordinary impact on their world.”

#1. The Call Requires **Obedience**

II. The Contradiction (Reveals Word #2)

Question: What is the contradiction?

Question: Verse 37, “And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.”

- ◆ The lake was exposed to fierce winds from the North.

- ◆ The wind rushes through a funnel down the ravines to the water.
- ◆ Without warning, a calm day can be interrupted by unexpected trouble.
- ◆ And here (in our text) the disciples find their boat filling with water.

Question: How do the disciples respond or react to their trouble?

Question: What do they say that reveals a weakness in their hearts?

(Verse 38) “Lord, don’t you even care that we are perishing?”

In Other Words

- ◆ Jesus is asleep in the back of the boat (and)
- ◆ The disciples are upset and give a questioning rebuke:

Verse 38, “Carest thou not” (or) **in other words**

- ◆ “Can’t you see what’s going on here Lord?”
- ◆ “Don’t you care about the pain we are in?”
- ◆ “Don’t you see the waves crashing down upon us?”
- ◆ “Aren’t you aware of how I feel?”

Question: What’s the second lesson (outside of class on shore) that Jesus teaches us?

Answer: That everybody has seasons when you wonder if God knows what’s going on in your life!!!

- ◆ A.W. Tozer called it, “**The Ministry of the Night**”
- ◆ Henri Nouwen called it, “**The Ministry of Absence**”
- ◆ St. John of the cross called it, **The Dark Night of the Soul**” (He also said)

“To come to the pleasure you have not, you must go by a way in which you enjoy not.”

Rick Warren, pg. 110 in The Purpose Driven Life says, “**The situations that will stretch your faith most, will be those times when God is nowhere to be found.**”

Question: Have you been there recently?

Question: Like the disciples, have you been disappointed by an unfulfilled expectation?

Question: Has somebody hurt you?

Question: Are you angry at anybody?

Question: Do you feel cheated or taken advantage of?

Question: Has a roommate or dorm-mate ticked you off?

Question: Found yourself complaining recently?

Question: Have an attitude towards the dean, a teacher, an R.A. or the cafeteria food?

Question: Has someone you trusted dropped you like a hot potato?

Question: Are you here smiling on the outside, but crying on the inside?

(I have good news for you)

- ◆ The storm doesn’t indicate whether you’re in the will of God.
- ◆ The storm just reveals what’s inside of you!

Question: Why did Jesus take the disciples through the storm?

Answer: #1. To reveal His power (even over nature) yes, that’s the **outside** stuff.

But: #2. To do a work on the **inside**, and show us the power of pride and humility.

Pride: ◆ Cops an attitude

- ◆ It justifies feeling cheated a little.
- ◆ It gives birth to complaints.

- ◆ And the root cause of all complaints is feeling that you are not getting what you deserve.

The Truth Is

You don't want what you deserve (Romans 5) which is judgment and lostness for eternity.

1. To the degree I blame someone else for what's inside of me, to that same degree I cannot be changed and will not be healed. I must accept responsibility for what's inside of me.
2. Discouragement is a lie of the devil, to blind you in the present of what God is going to do in the future.
3. "The only part of me that can be offended, is that part of me which has not died."

Word #1. **Obedience** to the calling and voice and will of God.

Word #2. **Humility** in the contradictions, so that I can surrender my rights to God (and not get sour.)

Remember Ecclesiastes 3:11 – "God makes all things beautiful in His time."

III. The Conquest (Reveals Word #3)

Question: What's the conquest?

Answer: Chapter 5:1 "**And they came over unto the other side of the sea.**"

Question: What was Jesus after in this journey?

Verse 40 "Why are you so **fearful**? How is it that you have no **faith**?"

Question: What's the lesson outside of the classroom on this day?

1. **Obedience** to the call (total surrender).
2. **Humility** in your contradictions (so you won't blame God or other people for your anger when you're hurt or disappointed).
3. **Faith** for the conquest (so joy for your tomorrows can fill you.)

In Other Words

- ◆ God wants you to believe that He will finish what He's started in you!

Conclusion

"After Class Decisions" that will make you or break you.

1. Are you willing to **obey** the voice of God (and ditch the non-essentials that are keeping you from crossing over?)
2. Will you **humble** yourself in your night seasons, so God can give you grace to get **better** instead of **bitter**?
3. Do you need to ask God for **faith** to keep going to the other side (and believe God for exactly what you need?)

Altar Call

- ◆ If you need to align yourself with God and correct any disobedience – come to the altar!
- ◆ If you need to humble yourself before God, so that your contradictions don't sour your attitude – come to the altar!
- ◆ If you need God to give your faith (to cross over and make it to the other side) – come to the altar!

AMEN
Bill Kirk