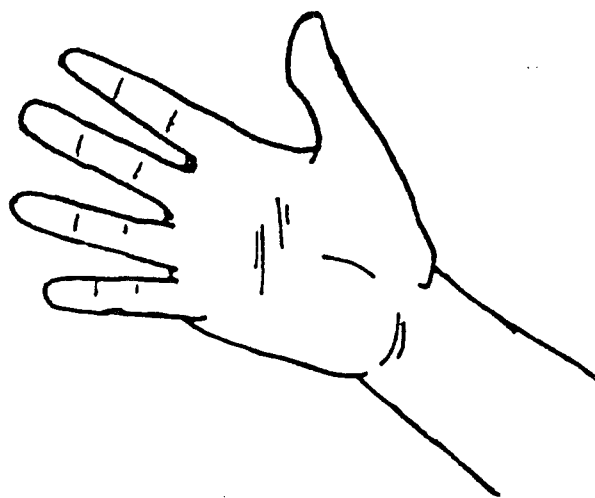


A HAND OUTSTRETCHED

(How Jesus Saves Peter From Sinking In The Water)
Matthew 14: 23-33



IN EVERY STORM THERE IS: _____

- ◆ Divine "Permission"
- ◆ Divine "Presence"
- ◆ Divine "Perspective"
- ◆ Divine "Perfection"

*"Peter, Beginning To Sink, Cried, Saying, Lord Save Me. And Immediately
Jesus Stretched Forth His Hand And Caught Him" (v. 30, 31)*

Bill Kirk

“A Hand Outstretched”

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Matthew 14:23-33

“Peter, beginning to sink, cried, saying, “Lord Save Me”. And immediately Jesus stretched forth His hand and caught him”. (v. 30,31)

Introduction

Fact: Matthew (ch. 14) begins the isolation season of Jesus’ life and ministry.

Fact: It’s the time when Jesus withdraws from the crowds to spend time alone with His disciples.

Fact: Jesus wants to prepare the disciples for the upcoming and impending crucifixion.

In (ch 14:13) Jesus withdraws into a desert place.

In (ch. 15:21) Jesus withdraws into the coasts of Tyre & Sidon.

In (ch. 16:13) Jesus withdraws into Caesarea Philippi.

In (ch. 17:1) Jesus withdraws into the mountain.

Our Setting Before Us

1. Jesus constrains the disciples to get into a ship.
2. Jesus commands the disciples to cross over the lake.
3. Jesus goes up into the mountain to pray alone.
4. It’s evening time soon, and time to teach the disciples (and you & me) a marvelous lesson.

What’s The Lesson?

*How to be encouraged through every storm you’ll ever face in the journey

Questions With Answers:

- #1. Pastor, how does this passage encourage my heart?
- #2. Pastor, why did Jesus send the disciples out alone?
- #3. Pastor, why the storm in the perfect will of God?
- #4. Pastor, why did Peter start sinking in the water?
- #5. Pastor, why did Jesus help the one who would deny Him?
- #6. Pastor, what’s the lesson of this account?
- #7. And what difference does it make in your life & mine today?

(4 Storm Secrets That Crucify the Lies Of The Evil One)

I. In Every Storm There Is “Divine Permission”

Question: Who was it that told the disciples to hop on board the boat and go before Him across the lake?

Answer: It was Jesus (Mark 6 :45) “And straightaway He constrained his disciples to get into the ship and go to the other side unto Bethsaida”.

Question: Why did Jesus send the disciples across the lake into negative circumstances?

- A. Late at night (It was dark)
- B. All alone (Jesus stays on shore)
- C. Contrary wind (There’s trouble on the water)

(Why Send Them Over Alone Through High Winds?)

Answer: Because the crowd wanted to make Jesus king after the miracle of the loaves, fishes and feeding of 5,000.

“Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, this is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world. When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make Him king, he departed again into a mountain Himself alone” (John 6:14,15)

Fact: The multitudes now believes that Jesus is Messiah.

Fact: They think He is come to deliver the people from Herod’s authority and Roman oppression.

Fact: Thus, if the disciples remain on shore, they will be destroyed by missing the true purpose of Jesus coming.

(So Lest The Disciples...)

- #1...Be blinded by the frenzy of the moment (or)
- #2...Be swept in by popular excitement (or)
- #3...And miss the cross and ultimate plan of God,

(Jesus Says)

“Go out and cross over the lake right through the storm in the nighttime”.

(How Come?)

- #1. Because Jesus could see some things that the disciples couldn’t see!
- #2. Because Jesus knew some things that the disciples didn’t know!

(What Am I Saying?)

- #1. That the disciples encountered contrary winds by “Divine Permission”
- #2. That it was the Lord who sent them over.
- #3. That it was the Lord who saw down the road.
- #4. That it was the Lord who allowed the wind & waves.

(Why?)

*To spare them from something greater that they didn’t even know about!

(Let’s Give God The Credit)

*That He knows a little more than we do about our tomorrows and what surrounds your life!!!

II. In Every Storm There Is “Divine Presence”

“Jesus went unto them walking on the sea” (Matthew 14:25)

Fact: In (v.22) Jesus is sending.
Fact: In (v. 23) Jesus is praying.
Fact: In (v. 24) Jesus is waiting.
Fact: But in (v. 25) Jesus is walking to His own!

Question: Ever feel like Jesus is unaware of your life's circumstances?
Question: Ever feel like Jesus isn't answering your prayers?
Question: Ever feel like Jesus has you "on hold"?
Question: Ever feel like Jesus will be late in arriving?

(Remember This In Contrary Winds)

*The Lord may not show up at the time that you think He should,
*But He will always show up at God's appointed time!!!

Question: Where was the ship at storm time?
Answer: (v. 24) "In the midst of the sea" (or half way across the 7 mile Sea of Galilee)
Fact: As far from shore as you can be on both sides (in winds & waves)

Question: Doesn't Jesus see what's going on?
Answer: "Jesus saw them toiling in rowing" (Mark 6:48)
Fact: Not only did Jesus see them ("He went unto them") Matthew 14:25)

(Notice 3 Characteristics Of Jesus' Arrival)

- #1. The Lord takes the initiative to come to them.
- #2. The Lord arrives at the darkest time of night.
- #3. The Lord's avenue of approach is to walk on top of the very thing that threatens the disciples.

(And I Discover Here)

- #1. That your dark night circumstances are never too dark where Jesus can't find you.
- #2. The Lord takes the initiative (He is bent on revealing Himself to you).
- #3. The waves (or whatever frightens you) is the Lords opportunity to walk right in to your view!

III. In Every Storm There Is "Divine Perspective"

In (v. 26), the disciples couldn't see that it was Jesus!
In (v. 28), Peter said, "If it's you Lord, bid me to come out on the water".
In (v. 29), Peter jumped out of the boat and walked on the water.
In (v. 30), Peter lived what we all live at some time:
"But when he saw the strong wind blowing"

(What Happened?)

Question: What happens when you take your eyes off of Jesus?
Question: What happens when we get out of focus?
Question: What happens when we lose perspective?
Question: What happens when we become distracted by all that is around us?

(The Answer?)

“He was afraid and began to sink” (v. 30)

Fact: Peter thought of the wind (instead of Jesus)

Question: What are you thinking of this morning?

Question: What consumes your mind & thought life?

Question: Which direction are you looking in?

(Is It That Important?)

“O thou of little faith, why did you doubt?” (v. 31)

(In Other Words) *Jesus reproves Peter for looking in the wrong direction!

*Fear was the symptom or byproduct; Jesus deals with the source.

*And the source is one of “Divine Perspective”.

(Which Is) Keeping our eyes on Jesus in the midst of the winds and waves of life!!!

IV. In Every Storm There Is “Divine Perfection”

“And when they were gone over” (Matthew 14:34)

Question: What was the purpose of the storm?

Answer: To grow the faith of the disciples!

Question: What did Peter do when sinking?

Answer: He prayed, “Lord, save me” (v. 30)

Question: How did Jesus respond to simple prayer?

Answer: “And immediately Jesus stretched forth His hand and caught him”. (v. 31)

(“But, Pastor, I Don’t Deserve It”)

Neither Did Peter

#1. Peter would flee from Jesus!

#2. Peter would deny he knew Jesus!

#3. But grace is undeserved favor from God!!!

(Give Peter Credit)1.

1. That when he was sinking, he did what we can do,

2. He prayed expecting the Lord to answer prayer!!!

(How Did Jesus Respond?)

“Jesus stretched forth His hand” (v. 31)

“And caught him” (v. 31)

(But Pastor)

“I’m too far under, too distant, too distracted from Jesus”

“I don’t deserve this lifting ministry of Jesus”

“I’ve been sinking in sin too deep too long”

(Forget All The Excuses)

“Lord Save Me” (v. 30) Prayers Still Work!

AMEN!

Pastor Bill Kirk