

"Peace in the Storms"

Mark 4:35-41

Introduction: This week God led me on a different path away from Zechariah so we will return to Zechariah next week. Today we are going to step into a text in which Jesus and His disciples encounter a very severe storm.

Storms are a part of living in this sin filled world and they will continue until the day when the curse is removed.

Genesis 3:16-19

¹⁶ Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

¹⁷ And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

¹⁸ Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

¹⁹ In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Job 5:6-7

⁶ Although affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground;

⁷ Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.

Job 14:1

Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble.

Ecclesiastes 5:15-17

¹⁵ As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand.

¹⁶ *And this also is a sore evil, that in all points as he came, so shall he go: and what profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind?*

¹⁷ *All his days also he eateth in darkness, and he hath much sorrow and wrath with his sickness.*

These are just a few of the verses that point to the fact that life here is not easy at times. There will be trials and storms which we will face.

I. The Situation

Notice Mark 4:33-37

I want to draw your attention to verse 37 to begin with. The Bible tells us this is a GREAT storm. Let us listen to the meaning of the word storm here: The word for the storm is **LAILAPS**. Listen to the definition.

"A violent attack of wind, a squall, never a single gust nor a steady blowing wind, however violent, but a storm breaking forth from black thunder clouds in furious gusts, with floods of rain, and throwing everything topsy-turvy."

This was an extremely severe storm which kicked up the waves, and between the rain and the waves, the boat was filling up with water. The disciples would have felt as though they could never survive. They thought they were sinking.

Application:

Have you ever faced with a "LAILAPS"? This is not your average trial. This is not a tooth ache or the flu. This is one of those situations that come upon you suddenly and violently. It presses you so hard that you feel like you are drowning. It presses the wind out of you and no matter where you turn or what you do you cannot escape. That is a "LAILAPS".

A. The Conditions

Notice Mark 4:34-35

There are two things here that we need to understand. First of all the disciples had just finished setting under the teaching of the Lord and second of all they were in the will of the Lord. He had told to them to get into the ship to go to the other side and they were obedient.

So, this "Lailaps" came upon them right after they had been in the Bible study and while they were living right in the middle of the will of God. This storm was not the result of sin. They had not done anything sinful to bring on the storm.

Application:

Sometimes the storms we encounter are the consequences of sin. Let me show you a few examples.

Jonah 1:1-12

Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,

² Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.

³ But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

⁴ But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken.

⁵ Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.

⁶ So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not.

⁷ And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah.

⁸ Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil is upon us; What is thine occupation? and whence comest thou? what is thy country? and of what people art thou?

⁹ And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land.

¹⁰ Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him. Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

¹¹ Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous.

¹² *And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you.*

Jonah experienced a severe storm because of sin.

2 Samuel 12:7-10

⁷ *And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;*

⁸ *And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.*

⁹ *Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.*

¹⁰ *Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.*

David would live with the consequences the rest of his life.

So the point is that some of the storms of life are the consequences of sin. But many times the "LAILAPS" happens while we are walking in the will of the Lord. Job's storms came while he was walking in the will of the Lord. Sometimes they are just the trials of our faith.

1 Peter 1:3-7

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

⁴ *To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,*

⁵ *Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

⁶ *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:*

⁷ That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

1 Peter 4:12

¹² Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

James 1:1-4

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

³ Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

⁴ But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

II. The Encouragement

1. Never Alone

Notice Mark 4:38

Jesus was right there with them. He was asleep and that was the humanity of our Lord, but He does not sleep today. Have you ever asked this question, "**Master, carest thou not that we perish?**"

1 Peter 5:6-7

⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

⁷ Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

He is always with us.

Psalm 121:1-4

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

² My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.

³ He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

⁴ Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

He is always watching, and He is always with us no matter what we go through.

Isaiah 43:1-3

But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

² When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

³ For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour:

Deuteronomy 31:6-8

⁶ Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

⁷ And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it.

⁸ And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.

Hebrews 13:5

⁵ Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

2. The Lord's Power

Notice Mark 4:39

If our Lord can calm the LAILAPS then He can certainly calm the storms that we face in life.

Colossians 1:16-17

¹⁶ For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

¹⁷ And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

III. The Rebuke

Notice Mark 4:40-41

The storm did not upset the Lord but the lack of faith in His disciples did.

Hebrews 11:6

⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Conclusion:

It was in the storm that His disciples learned who Jesus really was. Had they listened closer to the Words of Jesus they would have known there was no reason to fear.

Notice Mark 4:35

Commentator Matthew Henry says that the ship that has Christ in it, though it may be tossed, cannot sink. Here's something that may be helpful. Whenever you're sinking under a sea of stress and anxiety, remember this phrase: Don't despair, Christ is there! It is only in the storm that we understand who Jesus really is. We learn most about Christ when we are in crisis. Storms weren't sent to destroy you, but to develop you. Since Jesus is who He says is, then we have nothing to fear. His plans for us may be puzzling and they often include problems, but they come with His presence and a demonstration of His power.