

SERMON BASED STUDY

Unprecedented, strange times... Uncharted waters...

❓ What “strange” or unprecedented behaviors or experiences have you encountered?

❓ Discussion: What emotions are you feeling and experiencing?

35 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” 36 And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. 37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. 38 But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” 39 And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. 40 He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” 41 And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?” Mark 4:35-41

In the span of a few moments, the disciples saw both the complete humanity of Jesus and the fullness of His deity. They saw Jesus for who He is: truly man and truly God.

Observations That Lead to Faith Declarations

I. Jesus is still with us (in the boat)!

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you.” Isaiah 43:2a

“I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:20

“I will never leave you nor forsake you.” Hebrews 13:5

All this shows the abiding care Jesus has for us. There are many who seem to think the boat is going down! The boat cannot go down. Jesus is on board.”

❓ What can you do daily to experience Jesus in your boat?

II. Jesus still cares! He isn't asleep because He doesn't care; but because He's not stressed!

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:6-8

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. John 1:1-3

Cast all your cares and anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

Think of all the worries that might have kept Jesus awake. He could worry about the religious and political leaders who plotted against Him. He could worry about His family who thought He was crazy. He could worry about the overwhelming crowds with their overwhelming needs. He could worry about the disciples He chose. He could worry about the future, because He knew what His destiny was. With all these things to worry about, Jesus wasn't worried. He slept in a rocking boat.

❓ What cares do you need to cast upon Jesus, knowing that He cares for you?

III. Jesus is still in control (and will get us to the other side)!

Jesus made a promise to His disciples. He didn't say, "Let us perish in the middle of the Sea of Galilee." He promised His disciples that they would cross over to the other side.

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:37-39

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me... Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life, and I shall dwell^{fd} in the house of the Lord forever. Psalm 23:4, 6

❓ Spend a moment and declare that Jesus is still in control over _____.

IV. Jesus is still up to something good in you and me!

The wind didn't wake Him, the arguing of the disciples didn't wake Him, and water splashing over the boat didn't wake Him. But at the cry of His disciples He instantly awoke. Jesus is like the mother who sleeps through all kinds of racket, but at the slightest noise from her little baby, she instantly awakes.

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! Psalm 34:8

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. Romans 8:28-30

Faith grows best in unchartered waters!

A faith-declaration prayer:

Dear Jesus, by faith we declare that You are still in our boat and will never leave us or forsake us. Jesus, we declare that You still care for us as You shoulder our cares and anxieties. Jesus, we declare that You will get us to the other side, to our eternal home with You. Jesus, we declare that You are still up to something good as Your Spirit grows our faith and conforms us to Your image. Jesus, our Lord, Creator and sustainer of the universe, we trust You, powerful enough to declare, "Peace, be still." Amen