

Monday Morning Rewind – March 30, 2009

Good morning! So many are facing storms these days—relational storms, economic tsunamis, health hurricanes—that it seemed appropriate to get some “disaster relief” from a familiar, yet amazing, event in the life of Jesus recorded in the sixth chapters of both Mark and John’s gospels.

Jesus had just fed 5,000 men with five loaves and two fish. Jesus’ popularity was at an all-time high. The people believed that Jesus was the promised heir to King David’s throne and their deliverer from Roman oppression. The miracle of the loaves and fish elevated their hopes to unprecedented heights and the people moved to make Jesus their king. Even the disciples got caught up in the populist movement and joined the crowd thinking that this was their master’s moment of opportunity.

But Jesus hadn’t come to occupy a throne, He came to occupy a cross. He came to deliver all flesh from sin, not the Jews from Rome. To the dismay of the disciples, Jesus commanded them to get in their boat and sail back across the lake to Capernaum. He dispersed the disappointed crowd, and then withdrew to a mountain to pray. Jesus wept as He prayed because He knew the people didn’t understand the true nature of His mission. Even His own disciples didn’t understand and He prayed that their faith wouldn’t fail in the coming storm.

Rewind to Mark 6:45-52 (also John 6:16-21) and remember these five lessons when you’re in the midst of a storm:

1. Even when you’re angry at Jesus, He’s praying for you. The disciples were alone in the boat and Jesus was alone on the mountain. Inside the boat the disciples were grumbling. They couldn’t understand why Jesus wouldn’t take his place as king and they began to doubt whether He was really the Messiah. They were angry. But on the mountain Jesus was praying for them. Even as they accused Him, even as they questioned His motives, even as they doubted Him, Jesus was speaking their names to the Father in prayer, even as He is speaking yours to Him right now. “He is always living to make petition to God and intercede with Him and intervene for them” (Heb. 7:25, Amplified).

Satan blinds us to the truth—especially when we’re disappointed and discouraged. God often becomes the target of our anger. Nevertheless, Jesus intercedes for us and says, “Father, forgive them, they don’t know what they’re doing.” The enemy desire to sift you like wheat (see Luke 22:31), but Jesus is praying that your faith doesn’t fail.

2. Sometimes obeying Jesus gets you into trouble. It was in the very act of obeying Christ that the disciples got caught in a storm. Sometimes you’re going to find the going tough—not because you’re doing anything wrong—but because you’re doing everything right. The wind will be against you precisely because you’re not going with the flow.

Don’t assume that trouble means you’ve been abandoned by God. Rather, be on the alert when things are too easy, because instead of the wind being *against* you, it may now be *with* you.

3. No matter how great the storm, we are never out of God’s sight. In Mark 6:48, Jesus “...saw the disciples straining at the oars...” Little did the disciples know that as they toiled in rowing, the eye of their Master was upon them. Though they felt all was lost, the 12 were never really in danger because they were never out of His care.

We may feel that we’re all by ourselves in our struggles, but we’re never alone. “The eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love” (Psa. 33:18).

“About the fourth watch (around 3:a.m.) of the night, he went out to them, walking on the lake. And He acted as if He meant to pass by them” (Mark 6:48, Amplified). Please remember this: What threatens to overwhelm us is beneath the feet of Jesus. That which causes us the greatest fear and distress, Jesus walks above. What seems to be out of control, Jesus has under complete control.

4. In the confusion of life’s storms, don’t mistake Jesus for the enemy. “But when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, because they all saw him and were terrified” (verse 49). Sometimes our view of Jesus is obscured by the storm. We think God is a “pirate” when He is the Captain of the rescue ship.

5. Call on Jesus and let Him in your boat. He won’t force Himself aboard your sinking vessel. That’s why He “acted as if...to pass by them.” It’s your choice to continue relying on your own resources, or to admit our need of help.

The disciples called out to Him and Jesus replied, “Take heart! I Am! Stop being alarmed and afraid” (Verse 50). In His answer, Jesus again says, “I Am.” *I Am the way, the truth, and the life. Courage! I Am the bread of life; Courage! I am the light of world; Courage! I am the resurrection and the life; I Am Jehovah Jireh, your provider and I will supply your needs according to your riches in glory. Courage! I Am*

Jehova Rapha—the God who heals you. Courage! I Am with you always, even until the end of the world—even in this storm. Courage! I am here, I am love, and I Am everything you need.

Whether you are facing a storm of unemployment, depression, marital stress, or a crisis of faith, don't let the water get you down. Know that Jesus is praying for you. He's got His eye on you, and He's got your situation under control. Call to Him now and by all means, let Him into your boat.—Pastor Randy

p.s. If you haven't heard, our Community Conversations Live meetings on Wednesday nights are continuing in the form of a prophecy seminar. Join us each Wednesday night at 7:00 for prayer and a journey through the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation. And please tell a friend.