

Enduring Storms

December 1, 2019

Pastor Chuck Pruett

New Life Church

Mark 6:45-50 (NIV) ⁴⁵ Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶ After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray. ⁴⁷ When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. ⁴⁸ He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, ⁴⁹ but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, ⁵⁰ because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

The difficulty of storms is...

1. Darkness hides the PRESENCE OF GOD.

You need to understand that...

1) God see's YOUR SITUATION.

Mk 6:48a (NIV) ⁴⁸ He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them...

2) God sometimes APPEARS DISGUISED.

Mk 6:49 (NIV) ⁴⁹ but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost.

3) God shows UP IN OUR STORMS.

Mk 6:48b (NIV) ⁴⁸ ...About the fourth watch of the night he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them,

2. They intensify the DARKNESS OF NIGHT.

Mk 6:47 (NIV) ⁴⁷ When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land.

Ps 30:5 (NIV) ⁵ ... weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.

3. They come upon us UNEXPECTEDLY.

Mk 6:45 (NIV) ⁴⁵ Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd.

What you should do in the midst of a storm:

1) Be STILL

Ps 46:10 (NIV) ¹⁰ "Be still, and know that I am God..."

2) Be WISE

3) Be PERSISTENT

4) Be THANKFUL

"I am here. Do not be afraid." (John 6:20)