

What Jesus Says... about Peace

Matthew 8:26 – He replied, “You of little faith, why are you so afraid.” Then He got up and rebuked the winds and waves, and it was completely calm.

Many of the stories of the Bible are typically multi-layered with many teaching levels aimed at developing spiritual maturity as well as giving greater insight into the knowledge of the triune God. Jesus calms the storm is a such a story that can be studied from a variety of different perspectives – rest, faith, handling the storms of life, power and authority of Jesus, the presence of God, the cost of being a disciple, fear, or hope for the hopeless are just a few. Let us focus on the storms of life and specifically see the importance of faith and what happens when we waver. We all face storms from time to time, but all too often we think that storms come when we are disobedient to God. But here we see that the disciples are being obedient to Jesus, and they follow Jesus' instructions to cross to the other side of the Sea of Galilee even though there is a strong chance of being caught in a storm. Just because we are a follower of Jesus, does not mean that we are free of the storms of life. So, expect the unexpected and know that Jesus has absolute authority and can be trusted in times when you find yourself facing a storm that comes at you full speed. Maybe it is someone spreading rumors, or you are confronted with an unfaithful spouse, or you find out that you or a loved has cancer, or you just wrecked the car, or were laid off from work. It can go on and on and on but the bottom line it can come even when you have been obedient and are in a close walk with Jesus. Regardless, storms can come quick without warning and they are typically preceded by calm. But when they hit with fury, will you stand your ground, cry out to Jesus for help and then trust Jesus to calm the storm. Or will you allow fear to overtake your mind and blame God for putting you into this predicament. Know that the world is watching us as we go through these storms wanting to see if we have the faith to stay calm and poised as everything around us collapses. That is why it is so critical for us as believers to allow Jesus to be the captain of our boat. When we waver and turn from Jesus during these most difficult and trying times, the world concludes that if we, as believers, cannot trust Jesus to help us then why should they. Let your faith shine through when you are caught in the midst of a storm. Be courageous and know that when the storms of life are raining down on you, don't waver, keep your eyes focused on Jesus and know that He will carry you through it.

What is peace? Have you ever been in a place of true peace - without anxiety or worry? How do you deal with difficulties in your life?