

Jesus loves me, but I forgot.

3.18.18

Mark Series

Message 20

Mark 4:35–41 (NIV)

³⁵ That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” ³⁶ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷ A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸ Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”

³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

⁴¹ They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

1. The next few passages in Mark illustrate the reality of Jesus’ kingdom.

A. Earlier were parables about the Kingdom.

1. The Kingdom of God is like a man who sowed seed.

a. In one parable he sows seed on various soils.

b. Another parable illustrates the Kingdom as a light not to be hidden.

c. Last weekend, the Kingdom is illustrated as a mustard seed that grows remarkably large and wherever it was planted.

2. Jesus used these parables as a teaching method.

- a. When people saw a light, they would think about the kingdom.
- b. When people put their nasty mustard on their hotdog, we are reminded of God's love for the hurting, the outcast, the weed of society.

B. Now Mark weaves together a few examples of what the Kingdom looks like in real life.

1. What did it look like for good seed to be planted, multiplied and harvested?
2. The next few miracles demonstrate that.
3. We find that **the outward expression of the Kingdom looked like storms being calmed, demon possessed people being set free and given new life, the sick are healed and a dead girl raised back to life.**
4. Mark masterfully orchestrates the teachings of the Kingdom in Jesus' parables and then gives us examples of what the Kingdom of God looks like in real life.

C. Today's passage features real people and real problems.

1. Maybe you think that the Kingdom of God and this religious stuff doesn't apply to everyday life.
2. But we all experience storms in life.
3. Over the next few weeks we will see real people who had real problems.
 - a. The disciples were in a dangerous storm.
 - b. Next week, the man had been demon possessed.
 - c. Then we see a woman who couldn't stop her bleeding and a parent trying to save the life of his child.
 - d. In each one of these Jesus demonstrates His love and His power.

- e. As we go through life, we may question a lot of things:
- f. But, as believers, we must be careful not to question God's love for us or His power over life-altering situations.

Let's look at today's passage:

2. Jesus and His disciples are in a boat.

- A. It was time for Jesus to go on to the other side of the lake/sea.
 - 1. He had fulfilled his ministry on this side of the lake.
 - 2. Now He had people to minister to on the other side.
 - 3. Jesus knew that on the other shore was:
 - a. A demon-possessed man in need of deliverance.
 - b. A woman who needed to stop bleeding.
 - c. And a child who needed to be raised back to life.
 - 4. The disciples know none of this.
 - 5. But they willfully obey the leading of their Lord.
- B. On their way, they experience a terrible storm.
 - 1. This was not uncommon in this part of the world.
 - a. But a strong storm was extremely dangerous.
 - b. Any boat can sink if it takes on enough water.
 - 2. Several of the disciples were experienced boat operators.
 - a. They had fished for a living and had gone through storms before.
 - b. But this storm scared them.
 - c. Something about this storm, on this day, led these men to believe they were going to die.

3. When we are stressed, threatened, or bullied by life our true thoughts and feelings come out.

A. Many of us can hide our internal reality pretty well.

1. We put on smiling faces to hide our true emotions.
2. We respond "we are fine" when we are anything but.
3. But in a real emergency, a real-life storm, the filter over our mouth is often removed and the façade we put up comes crashing down.
4. Who we really are and what we really think becomes exposed in all of its fallenness.

B. This is exactly what happened to the disciples.

1. They have heard the teachings.
 - a. They have seen miracles.
 - b. They even knew that Jesus was IN THE BOAT with them.
2. But in the midst of the storm, with wind blowing and waves crashing over the boat, the filter came off and the façade crashed down.
 - a. And in one accord, the disciples wake Jesus up and accuse Jesus of not caring about them.
 - b. This is a raw statement.
 - c. Unfiltered, raw, and desperate.

C. As we consider this response, we must remember a few things:

- #1. It was Jesus' idea to go across the lake.
- #2. The disciples were in very real danger.
- #3. The disciples did not know how this would end.
- #4. Jesus was in the boat.

4. Jesus' response was strong because the disciples cry was bitter.

A. "The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

1. When we question Jesus' love and goodness, we cannot ask in faith for him to do what he can do.

a. The same reason we don't ask millionaires to give us money is the same reason many of us don't pray like we should.

b. We don't really think that they will answer.

2. But Jesus isn't like that.

a. He wants us to feel safe even in storms.

b. He wants us to trust him even when it seems like he is sleeping and not paying attention.

B. When the storms of life hit, we must remember Jesus' love for us.

1. Jesus loves me this I know and we can't afford to mess this up or forget it.

2. When we question the love of God in the midst of the storm, we feel like we have to face the storm alone.

3. But we don't have to face the storm alone because Jesus is in the boat with us.

C. The disciples question Jesus' love and Jesus questions the disciples' faith.

1. Faith and love go together.

2. In fact, faith proceeds out of love.

a. You won't have faith in Jesus if you don't believe he loves you.

b. You won't trust Jesus and exercise faith if you don't believe in his love and compassion for you.

3. If faith is absent then so too is love.

4. If love is absent so too is faith.

D. We find this tension throughout Jesus' ministry.

1. The man who asked Jesus if Jesus was willing to make him clean questioned not Jesus' power but his compassion.

2. In a couple of weeks we will see the woman with uncontrolled bleeding who, deep down, feared Jesus' rejection of her, so she reached out secretly to touch his robe.

a. She wondered if Jesus would care enough to stop what he was doing and to be seen with her so she reached out to him secretly.

b. She unexpectedly received love and healing, not just the healing she sought after.

3. Time and again, love and faith go together.

a. That's why we cannot forget what we were taught as children:

b. Jesus loves me this I know....

5. The Disciples allowed their present danger to overshadow Jesus' imminent love.

A. That day in that boat, the disciples forgot about Jesus' love, which led to them questioning Jesus' compassion, and resulted in a loss of faith.

1. Thankfully, Jesus knows how to handle your questions.

a. He is not afraid of you asking questions.

b. Your questions do not threaten Him.

c. The Psalms are brilliantly filled with the exploration of the limits of human understanding.

2. Even Jesus called out upon the cross the question, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" That's a question.

a. And that moment of prophetic fulfillment didn't make Jesus a sinner, or threaten God's existence, but expressed the true anguish of Jesus in that moment.

b. And many of you here today have had moments, like the disciples, where you wondered if Jesus even cared.

1. The death of a child or spouse.

2. The loss of a job.

3. The physical pain that seems not to ever leave.

4. And you've prayed, you've went to church, you have done all of these things and find yourself weary, worn, and the facade cracking.

B. What, then, are we to do when we are tempted to questions God's love for us?

1. Remember that Jesus is in the boat with you.

a. No matter your feelings or your emotions, Jesus promised He would never leave you.

b. Life may not look like you had planned it, but that does not mean you are alone.

2. See the Kingdom expanding through you and in you.

a. The Apostle Paul suffered his whole ministry.

1. He was persecuted the whole time he followed Jesus.

2. But he also battled with a very serious eye problem that caused him great pain and left him unable to write his later letters.

3. At one point, he was crying out to God for healing, for deliverance from this, God told him his grace was sufficient.

4. In other words, God was going to advance His kingdom even in the midst of Paul's pain and suffering.

b. Paul's pain did not mean he was a lesser Christian, nor did it threaten Paul's salvation or His belief in God.

1. Paul knew of God's love for him and therefore could walk in that love, by faith, no matter how he felt that day.

c. Sometimes we need to be reminded that what we are going through is just a storm.

1. It won't last forever.

2. Instead of feeling sorry for ourselves or questioning God's love for us, we should look around and prepare ourselves for how Jesus is going to show off his power in the midst of this storm.

3. Never forget Christ's love for you.

a. Do you believe that Jesus loves you?

1. If you do, then the result is faith.

2. Love and faith cannot exist independent of each other.

b. A common tactic many of us are familiar with is the substitution of love for manipulation.

1. Let me explain.

2. When we add stipulations to our love, the result is not love.

a. We do this all the time.

b. "Honey, if you love me then would you..."

c. Or, "I would love you more if you...."

d. When we add hoops to jump through, it is no longer love but manipulation.

e. No longer faith but blackmail.

c. And when we come to God with this motivation, we lose every time.

1. God, if you will heal me then I will....

2. If you promise to fix my credit card debt, then I'll tithe...

3. If you will..., then I will be obedient.

4. This is not love but manipulation and there is no faith there.

5. The Disciples questioned Jesus' caring and Jesus rebuked their lack of faith.

6. If you want to increase your faith, increase your love.

A. You maybe facing something in your life that you don't have the answer for.

1. You don't know where the provision is coming from.

a. You don't know what the diagnosis maybe.

b. You don't have the answer to the question and you know you have to find a solution soon.

2. You don't have to have the answer to all of the questions.

a. But you do need to remember that Jesus is in the boat with you and you know He loves you.

b. When you know this, you can step out in faith.

B. It's like the scene in the Indiana Jones movie.

1. Indy has to cross this gorge across an invisible bridge.
2. Though he can't see it, he knows it is there.
3. When you know Jesus loves you, then you can take the step of faith He is calling you to and know he is there.

C. The disciples may have been wrong in questioning Jesus' love for them.

1. But they were right in going to Jesus when they needed help.
2. It is never too early or too late to turn to Jesus.

Close

A. Across this church today are people from various walks of life.

1. Some of you are going through personal storms.
2. Some of you are being called to take steps of faith.
3. Some of you have been wondering if Jesus loves you.

B. Wherever you are and whatever you are facing, I ask you to turn to Jesus.

1. Jesus is not threatened by the storm.
 - a. The storm that the disciples feared, Jesus slept through.
 - b. The storm that the disciples fought against, Jesus spoke to and brought calm.
2. And the same Jesus loves you.
 - a. Jesus loves me, this I "know".
 - b. Would you say that with me?
 - c. " I have faith in God because I love Him and He loves me".

C. This morning, we are going to take steps of love and faith.

1. We are going to pray together in just a moment.

2. If you want someone to pray with you and for you, I'm going to invite you to the front in just a moment.

3. First, let's take a moment and ask Jesus to reveal His love to you.

4. And then we are going to take steps of faith.

5. **When you step out in faith, you step out in love.**

6. And Jesus is calling us to take steps of love and faith.