

How to Face Dark and Stormy Nights...

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John 6:16-21

Oak Community Church (PCA)

An Important Sign Leads to a Stormy Boat Ride

- Feeding of 5000 'sign' is included in all 4 gospels, only one that is
- People wanted to set Jesus up as a Political Messiah (King) - He withdrew
- Jesus instructed disciples^{Mt14:22-24} to take the boat to other side of lake
- Jesus dismissed the crowds and went up the mountain^{15;Mt14:23;Mk6:46} to pray

A Number of Observations

- It was dark¹⁷; the sea became rough¹⁸; small fishing boat
- Sea of Galilee known for vicious storms due to geography

Why would Jesus let His disciples endure this storm?

1. We live in a fallen world - our world is cursed^{Rm8:20-22}
 - we like to believe we can control it^{climate;economy} but we deceive ourselves
 - Bible full of story waters imagery for life^{Ps69:12}
2. Jesus sent them into the storm^{Mk6:48} and was watching them
 - Peter later wrote about trials as necessary and refining^{1Pt1:6-7}
 - Believers are sometimes called to endure trials^{Jn16:33}
3. Disciples faced the storm because they obeyed Jesus' command!
 - God sometimes disciplines^{Heb12:5-7} but not all trials are discipline
 - God often refines - Moses^{Ex31:1-15}; Daniel^{Dan6:10,6}; His saints^{Heb11}
 - We are called to persevere in trials and not 'change' course^{1Cor15:58;Gal6:9}
 - Face trials and tests with PRAYER - See *A Simple Way to Pray*^{oakpca.org/prayer}

Lessons on Faith in Trials

- John wrote this gospel decades after this event, but he vividly remembered and likely wanted us to know:
1. Jesus is Always Watching.
 - 'where is Jesus?' or 'has He forgotten us?' we ask this too often
 - But Jesus knew¹⁷, He was on the mtn watching^{15;Mk6:48}
 - Jesus is now interceding for believers^{Rm8:34-37} - Let that comfort you!
 2. Jesus comes to His own with Help in times of Need
 - Jesus walked on water to them¹⁹
 - The wonder of the Incarnation - God came and dwelt among us^{Tit2:14}
 - Disciples response was initially fear¹⁹
 3. Jesus comes in Perfect Timing - just not ours
 - they had rowed 3-4 miles¹⁹ in a storm; it was 3am^{Mk6:48}
 - Jesus walked to them after watching them
 4. We must LISTEN to Jesus' Word
 - Jesus said, "It is I". **ego emi** - same as Yahweh, I am^{Ex3:14}
 - Jesus is the Great "I AM" - another revelation
 5. Jesus will Solve our Problem
 - '*immediately the boat was at the land*' another miracle?
 - Problem solved according to God's glorious will and purposes
 - Jesus will not be caught off guard or lose one of His^{Jn6:39}

The Savior Who Is With Us In Storms

- We live in a dark & stormy world
- Jesus saves us into His Body - The Church for our care^{1Cor12:27-31;Eph4:15-16}
- Rest in the Great Savior Jesus^{Jn20:31}