

Sunday, August 20, 2017 - "Facing Storms" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Mark 4:35-41, Psalm 107, Isaiah 43

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- Mark 4:35-41
 - Jesus has been teaching and explaining his teachings to his disciples
 - The disciples are tired and weary from a long day's work/ministry → Boat trip
- The Boat trip
 - Would have been a pretty normal thing. It was a pleasant invitation, but the trip didn't go as the disciples expected it to go
 - Following Jesus doesn't always go as we expect it to go
 - Life is often unpredictable...BUT walking through unpredictability WITH Jesus is better than WITHOUT
- Sea of Galilee
 - in Matthew it's a "sudden storm"
 - In Mark it's a "great" storm
- STORMS ARE UNAVOIDABLE
 - Sudden, unexpected storms are a significant part of life (you're either heading out of, in the midst of, or heading towards a storm)
 - Sometimes storms are a result of something we have done or not done, somewhere we haven't surrendered in obedience to God
 - BUT in this story the disciples were doing exactly what Jesus had asked. They were being obedient.
- We need to have a theology of suffering/not just the prosperity gospel
 - God sometimes takes us through something to teach us something or to grow us somehow
 - Physical wealth/well being does not equal spiritual maturity (we can sometimes associate the two i.e. Doug's interaction in India with people who were extremely poor)
- When storms come...
 - Our tendency is to lean in to ourselves and our strength and our understanding
 - When the disciples came to the end of themselves is when they actually turned to Jesus
 - "Can't you see that we're perishing?" (v38)
 - Our efforts won't get it done. Jesus is the answer to every problem we are facing
- God brings his peace to us in the storm
 - Rather than rushing to God with our panic, waiting to here God speak his calm
 - Psalm 107: God won't always calm the storm "out there" but he will within us
 - Isaiah 43: when you pass through the waters or walk through the fire
- v 41: "Who then is this?" The one who speaks to the wind and waves is the one who loves us and knows us and speaks calm and peace into our storms

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. What is the storm that you are in the midst of right now?
2. How have you been trying to go it alone, on your own strength and in your own understanding?
3. Give an example of a time God brought you through something to teach you or to grow you?
4. Is there a time when you can remember God speaking calm into your storm or into your heart in the midst of a storm?
5. Have you ever experienced a storm because you were disobedient to God or were not fully surrendered to Him?
6. What does it mean to you when in v41 the disciples say "Who then is this?" How does it affect you that God has authority over even wind and waves?
7. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: Psalm 32 Tues: Psalm 33 Wed: Psalm 34 Thurs: Psalm 43 Fri: Psalm 53

****5 Minutes Reading/5 Minutes Writing/5 Minutes Praying**