

CONNECT GROUP NOTES

Sunday 21.01.2024

“Storms”

Preacher

Ps. Glen Cochrane

Scripture

“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!””

Mark 4:35-41

Thought

Storms. At some point in time, we all encounter them. Be they physical storms like a typical summer afternoon downpour in Queensland, or be they internal storms, the ones that rock our emotional world, that leave us feeling vulnerable, unsettled, or blindsided.



It's been said you're either about to enter a storm, you're in the middle of one, or you've just come out of one.

Life's storms; Storms that come with illness, a sudden diagnosis, storms of employment or finance, clouds of depression and anxiety, relationship breakdown and brokenness, the loss of a loved one.

Storms are inevitable. We as Christians aren't immune. We tend to think that if we follow Jesus, nothing will go wrong - but that's simply not based on Biblical fact. John 16:33 reminds us that we will indeed have trouble. It doesn't mean you've done something wrong. Hard times happen to everyone. As the disciples (the original Jesus followers) found themselves in a storm, so do we.

So where is God in the midst of all of this? Where is Jesus?

He's in the boat. He's in the situation with you. He knows what it is to suffer, to be physically and mentally afflicted, to lose loved ones, to know the sting of death and loss.

His promise to us is that He will never leave us, He will never forsake us. He is with us in the storm.

God's presence in our crisis situations isn't dependent on our ability to seek Him, or our right theology or belief - He is present because he promises to be with us. He is 'Emmanuel'; God with us.

In His perfect time, Jesus will bring perfect calm to the storm. He knows the right time, He knows the right way. We so often want it to happen in our time, but He knows us, He loves us, He cares, and He will, whether in this life or in the fullness of time, bring perfect calm and peace.

He knows the right time, and in the meantime, He is in the boat with us.



Discussion Points

1. Ps. Glen said that “What we do in the calm will determine how we sail through the storm”. What preparations can I make now that will change the way I respond to life’s tough or unexpected storms? Is there a mindset or truth that I need to meditate on how that can become an anchor when the seas get rough?
2. Psalm 4:8 speaks of a deep, trusting peace. Are there areas of my life right now that need this kind of peace?
3. Do I fully understand the reality of Jesus’ presence in my life? That He is in the boat with me in the midst of anything I encounter?

Personal application + Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You that You journey with me through all of life’s ups and downs. May I come to know the reality of your presence in my life - whether in still or stormy waters, and may I know the peace and calm that can only come through deep connection with You. I trust You, Lord. Lead me on in Your love.

Forever. Amen.