

2020.11.08 Sunday Sermon <Jesus Is...When We Are In Trouble>

Psalm 116:1-2

¹ *I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy.*

² *Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live.*

Matthew 14:22-33

²² *Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.*

²⁵ *Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.*

²⁷ *But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."*

²⁸ *"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."*

²⁹ *"Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.*

³⁰ *But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" ³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."*

As we read Matthew 14: 24, we know that the disciples' boat was facing trouble in the middle of the sea with strong waves and winds. Just like the disciples, we are also facing troubles in our daily lives for many different reasons. Let us learn what Jesus did when the disciples were in trouble.

1. He Finds Us

Even when Jesus was far away from the sea, He still came to find His disciples who were in trouble.

- **Matthew 14:25**

²⁵ *Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.*

Most people, when others are in trouble, tend to leave them. However, Jesus still finds us.

- **Proverbs 19:4**

Wealth attracts many friends, but even the closest friend of the poor person deserts them.

- **2 Timothy 4:16-17**

¹⁶ *At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. ¹⁷ But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth.*

Nowadays, we are attached to our phones constantly. It is because of the emptiness in us and we fill that void with information we find within our phones.

- **Story of Charles Swindoll**

Charles Swindoll is an evangelical Christian pastor, author, educator, and radio preacher. One day he released an ad on Kansas newspaper which said, "I will listen to your talk for 30 minutes without comment for \$5.00." Do you think anyone called? He received 10 to 20 calls per day. This showed Charles Swindoll that people were suffering from loneliness.

- One of the life insurance statistics said that college students have highest suicide rate - all due to loneliness. Elders also have high risk of early death if they live alone.

We all face loneliness, but remember that Jesus will always find us and be with us. Even if my friends in this world abandon me, it's only Jesus who loves me.

2. He Encourages Us

As we continue on reading through Matthew 14, we see how Jesus finds those who are suffering and encourages them.

- **Matthew 14:27**

²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

Most people, when others are in difficult situation, discourage them. However, Jesus encourages us when we are in trouble.

- **Psalms 123:3**

³ Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy on us, for we have endured no end of contempt.

Always know that Jesus stands with us and understands what we are going through.

- **Hebrews 2:18**

¹⁸ Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

The Bible repeats "do not be worried" several times.

- In **Genesis 15:1**, the Lord tells Abram:

After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision:

"Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

- In **Genesis 26:24**, the Lord tells Isaac:

²⁴ That night the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham."

- In **Genesis 46:3**, the Lord tells Jacob as he hears about his son Joseph is alive at Egypt:

³ "I am God, the God of your father," he said. "Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there."

The Lord who encouraged Abram, Isaac, and Jacob is the same Father who encourages us. He tells us not to be afraid and provides hope for our future.

- **Story of Frogs in the Forest**

There was a group of frogs and two frogs fell into a pit. Both were trying so hard to get out of the pit. One frog tried so hard and ended up dying. The other frogs outside of the pit yelled at the other frog in the pit to give up and stay in the pit. However, the one left in the pit kept trying and the outside frogs kept yelling to stay inside the pit. The frog left in the pit gave one last try and jumped as high as it could and finally got out. The group of frogs asked the frog...didn't you hear us to stay in the pit? The frog replied to them...I have hearing issue and I thought you were encouraging me to jump and get out of the pit.

This story shows how important encouragement can be in our lives. Always remember, Jesus will find us and provide encouragement when we are in trouble.

3. He Holds Us

When we are in trouble, Jesus will find us, encourage us, and will hold us.

- **Matthew 14:31**

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

- **Psalms 116:11**

in my alarm I said, "Everyone is a liar."

- **Psalms 139:9-10**

⁹ *If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,*

¹⁰ *even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.*

As human beings tend to follow those who are wealthy or rich. However, Jesus upholds all those who are in trouble. Not just the wealthy and rich...but ALL people.

- **Psalm 145:14**

The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.

- **Isaiah 41:10**

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

- **Story of Millie Bailey**

Vivian C. "Millie" Bailey (born February 3, 1918) is an American World War II veteran, civil servant, and volunteer. She is a fundraiser for education, health, and military service personnel. Bailey was one of the first African American women pilots in the Women's Army Corps and served as a commander of the Women's Colored Detachment. Bailey was a division director in the Social Security Administration.

Just like the former President Bush who went for skydiving when he was 90 years old, she decided to head for skydiving on her birthday. After landing safely, she said "I was scared for one minute, it felt like I was tumbling and then I thought, somebody is holding onto me."

In Summary

When we are depressed, in trouble, worried due to the pandemic, or anxious due to divided nation... just remember following:

1. Jesus will **Find Us**
2. Jesus will **Encourage Us**
3. Jesus will **Hold Us**

Prayer:

*When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.*