



JESUS IS GOD'S ANSWER TO MAN'S DESPAIR

Preaching and Teaching Resources

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Jesus is God's Answer to Man's Despair

Trouble is what draws us closer to Jesus and strengthens us to face life's storms.

In John 6, Jesus' disciples were caught up in a treacherous storm, when suddenly they saw Jesus walking on the Sea of Galilee. This passage reminds us that Jesus is God's answer to Man's despair.

When we find ourselves tossed about by the storms of life, there are six anchors for the soul we can hold onto.

"I am governed by His providence."

The storm the disciples faced did not take Jesus by surprise; nor were the disciples there by mistake. When we face unexpected storms, we must remember that even though it seems contrary to us, we are exactly where God has placed us and His providence is there, too.

"I am growing by His plan."

When we look back on our lives, we will see that we grew the most in times of trouble; God engineers problems for our development.

Adrian Rogers says, "Faith, like film, is developed best in the dark."

"I am graced by His prayers."

Before Jesus appeared to the disciples on the waves, He was alone on the mountain top, praying for them. From His vantage point, He could see the storm they were entering. Though the disciples did not see Him, He did not take His eyes off of them. Jesus sees us and prays for us, especially when we are in the midst of a storm.

"I am gladdened by His presence."

John 6:20-21 says "But He said to them, 'It is I; do not be afraid.' Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going." More than miracles, we need Jesus. Many times, we are positioned to cry out to Him, so that we may know a deeper glory and grace when He arrives.

"I am guarded by His power."

God's will does not take us where His grace cannot keep us. Anything over our heads is already under His feet. He has overcome the world; the Great I AM will always be.

"I am guided by His purpose."

We are predestined to be like Jesus; God has a purpose for every storm. He gets in the boat with us and sees us to the shore.

Life Application

Are you going through a storm right now? Remember these six truths and trust in Jesus.



Jesus Is God's Answer to Man's Despair

SERMON REFERENCE: John 6:15-21

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1929

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) A friend is someone who makes you a better person.
- b) Proverbs 27:17
 - i) A true friend will put an edge on your life.
 - ii) A true friend will make you a sharper person.
 - iii) Sometimes a friend will love you so much that he will hurt you in order to help you.
 - (1) Proverbs 27:6
- c) How would you like to have a friend who would help you to live a clean life?
- d) How would you like to have a friend who would draw you closer to Jesus?
- e) How would you like to have a friend who would give you more strength?
- f) How would you like to have a friend who would help you win your loved ones to Jesus Christ?
- g) How would you like to have a friend who would make you a mature believer in the Lord Jesus?
 - i) You already have that friend, and his name is "Trouble".
- h) The Bible tells of a time when the disciples were in trouble.
 - i) John 6:15-21
 - (1) "Even" here refers to the evening as the sun is setting.
 - ii) Jesus had just fed the 5,000 and the crowds were clambering after Him because of the miracles that He had done.
 - (1) They wanted to make Him a king.
 - (a) But He had no interest in being that kind of king.
 - iii) Jesus withdrew Himself up to a mountain to pray and to get away from the crowd.
 - iv) He sent the disciples down to the sea to go across the Sea of Galilee.
 - (1) They were seasoned sailors, and they set sail because the Lord had told them to.
 - (a) They were not aware that trouble was coming.
 - v) They sailed into a storm.
 - (1) The wind suddenly arose.
 - (a) Have you ever been there?
 - (i) Everything seemed to be wonderful.
 - (ii) You were sailing along, just like the disciples were that night.
 - 1. They were full of joy and peace.
 - 2. They were filled with the sense of exhilaration and power.
 - a. After all, they were following Jesus, and He was a miracle worker.
 - b. Besides that, they had eaten and were filled with bread and fish.
 - (iii) Then, it happened.
 - (2) The winds became boisterous.
 - (3) Water was now filling the boat.
 - (4) It was the darkest hour of the night.
 - (5) They were rowing, and their backs were aching.
 - (6) They were out in the middle of the sea.
 - (7) They could not go back, and it was difficult to go forward.



- (8) It was too far to swim to shore.
- (9) The shoreline was lost in the blackness, and they were filled with despair.
- vi) The disciples were going to find out that Jesus is God's answer to man's despair.
- i) Maybe you have been there, or maybe everything is fine for you.
 - i) Maybe it is smooth sailing for you right now.
 - (1) If so, just wait.
 - (a) Sooner or later, you will find that the winds are going to begin to blow, and things are going to seem to reverse on you.
 - ii) If you're having smooth sailing now, be grateful and enjoy it.
 - j) Today's message will give us six anchors that will help us to ride out the storm.
 - i) When the storm comes, we will find (just like the disciples) that Jesus is God's answer to man's despair.

2) I AM GOVERNED BY HIS PROVIDENCE (PSALM 107:25)

- a) This storm did not take the Lord Jesus by surprise.
 - i) Psalm 107:25
 - ii) He's the one who created Galilee so long ago.
- b) Matthew 14:22
 - i) The disciples were not there because they were out of the will of God.
 - (1) They were there because they were in the will of God.
- c) Perhaps you are in the eye of a storm right now.
 - i) It looks like your boat is sinking.
 - ii) It is so dark that you cannot see your hand before your face.
 - iii) Every wind seems to be contrary to you.
- d) There is nothing that comes to you that He does not cause or allow.
 - i) One way or the other, His providence is there.
 - ii) Not a drop of water in the Sea of Galilee was there without His permission.
- e) Whether we can see it and whether we can understand it or not, it is a fact that God has not relinquished His rule upon His universe.

3) I AM GROWING BY HIS PLAN (PSALM 4:1)

- a) God wants to enlarge us, not indulge us.
 - i) God is not merely so interested in making us happy and healthy as He is in making us holy.
- b) God will sometimes put us into trouble.
- c) The Lord Jesus engineered these problems for His disciples because He wanted to develop them.
 - i) Psalms 4:1
- d) The times we develop and enlarge spiritually are the times when trouble comes along.
 - i) We all enjoy not having trouble, but we grow the most in times of deepest despair.
 - ii) Faith is developed best in the dark.
- e) Twelve spies were sent to spy out the land of Israel, and ten came back with a bad report.
 - i) Numbers 13:17-33
 - (1) They said that the land was filled with milk and honey, but there were giants in the land, the sons of Anak.
 - (2) They said that they couldn't go into the land because they would go to war with the giants.



- (a) The giants were so big that the spies felt like grasshoppers.
- ii) Numbers 14:9
 - (1) Caleb said, "For they are bread for us."
 - (a) Not that they were created for us, but they're food for us.
 - (b) What did Caleb mean by this?
 - (i) When we eat bread, we strengthen and grow.
 - (ii) These difficulties were there to make them grow.
- f) We will never grow until we eat the bread that God has set before us.
 - i) Often, it is trouble.
 - ii) To grow, we have to have difficulty.

4) I AM GRACED BY HIS PRAYERS (MARK 6:47-48)

- a) When the Lord Jesus sent the disciples down to the sea, He went up to the mountain top where He had a vantage.
 - i) He saw the whole thing.
 - (1) He saw the disciples rowing.
 - (2) He saw the clouds as they began to roil and boil.
 - (3) He saw the sea as the waves began to rise.
 - ii) What was Jesus doing?
 - (1) He was praying.
- b) The disciples may not have known that Jesus had His eye upon them, but He did.
- c) Mark 6:47-48
 - i) They did not see Him, but He saw them.
 - ii) He never took His eye off of them.
- d) On the mountain, Jesus prayed and interceded for the disciples.
- e) Are you in the midst of a storm?
 - i) He is watching over you and praying for you.
 - (1) Hebrews 7:25
- f) We cannot pray for everyone and everything.
 - i) If we try to do this, then our prayer list will become a stagnant swamp rather than a controlled river.
 - ii) God will lay prayer burdens upon our hearts.
 - (1) He will tell us whom to pray for.
 - iii) If someone is praying for you, then you are blessed.
- g) You are on Jesus' prayer list.
 - i) He knows you.
 - (1) Matthew 10:30
 - ii) You are not an incident.
 - iii) You are not an accident.
 - iv) He does not love us all; He loves us each.
- h) Jesus watched the disciples right in the eye of the storm.
 - i) He was there.
 - ii) They could not see Him, but He could see them.

**5) I AM GLADDENED BY HIS PRESENCE (JOHN 6:17, 20)**

- a) It was the fourth hour (between 3:00 AM and 6:00 AM) when Jesus came to them.
 - i) It was the darkest hour of the night.
 - (1) And in their darkest hour, Jesus came.
- b) Why did He not come sooner?
 - i) He had His eye on them all the time.
 - ii) He was praying for them all of the time.
 - iii) The problem was not that He had forgotten them, but they had forgotten Him.
 - (1) Mark 6:51-52
 - (a) They had seen Him feed the five thousand.
 - (i) There were twelve basketfuls left over.
 - 1. Every disciple had a basket of bread right between his feet.
 - 2. One basket for every disciple.
 - (2) They forgot the miracle of the loaves.
 - (a) That is the reason why we need more than miracles to live on.
 - (i) We need Jesus.
 - (ii) How easily we forget miracles.
 - (3) They were asking for another miracle.
 - (a) But what they needed was not a miracle; they need the Miracle Worker, Jesus Christ Himself.
 - c) Jesus waited a while before He came to them.
 - i) He came to them strategically at exactly the right time.
 - (1) Isaiah 30:18
 - (2) We need to learn to wait on the Lord.
 - ii) Many times, the Lord will deliberately delay that He may be gracious to us.
 - (1) When Lazarus was sick, they sent for Jesus.
 - (a) Rather than coming immediately at their request, Jesus waited.
 - (i) He held back until Lazarus was dead.
 - (2) John 11:14-15
 - (a) Jesus had something greater in mind.
 - (3) Suppose the Lord had come sooner and healed Lazarus.
 - (a) Lazarus would have been just one more person whom Jesus healed.
 - (b) Some people might have said that Lazarus would have gotten better anyway.
 - (i) How would they have known it was a miracle?
 - (4) Jesus had a plan.
 - (a) That plan was the greater glory.
 - iii) God waited 4,000 years before He sent the Lord Jesus Christ into this world after He made that promise.
 - (1) But the Bible says, "He came in the fullness of time."
 - (a) Galatians 4:4
 - iv) Jesus is never late, never ahead of time, and never in a hurry.
 - (1) Habakkuk 2:3
 - (a) Wait for it.
 - d) He will come to us.
 - i) His eyes are upon us as He prays for us.

**6) I AM GUARDED BY HIS POWER (JOHN 6:20)**

- a) "The will of God will never take you where the grace of God cannot keep you."
- b) Jesus told the disciples to "go over" to the other side.
 - i) He did not say "go under".
 - ii) He had a plan for them.
- c) When the disciples first saw Jesus walking on the water, they began to draw back in terror; but soon their terror was turned to joy.
 - i) They heard Him say, "It is I, be not afraid."
 - (1) What He literally said was, "Do not be afraid, I AM."
 - (a) He used the name for Jehovah, the most sacred name to the Jewish people.
 - (b) When Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt, he asked whom should he say sent him.
 - (i) Jehovah said to tell them that I AM sent him.
 - 1. Exodus 3:13-14
 - (c) Yesterday, He was not "I was"; He was I AM.
 - (d) Today, He is I AM.
 - (e) Tomorrow, He is not "I will be"; He is I AM.
 - (i) There was never a time when He was not.
 - 1. He is the great eternal God.
 - (f) I AM is a proclamation of presence, a promise of abundance.
 - (i) He is the I AM in the midst of your storm.
- d) Why did Jesus walk upon the water?
 - i) There was a message in the miracle, a significance in the sign.
 - ii) The water was their biggest problem.
 - iii) But Jesus was telling them that what looked like was going to be over their heads was already under His feet.
 - (1) John 16:33
 - (2) We are overcomers in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- e) I AM is an unfinished sentence.
 - i) I AM what?
 - (1) You fill in the blank.
 - (2) I AM the bread of life.
 - (a) John 6:35
 - (3) I AM the water of life.
 - (a) Revelation 21:6
 - (4) I AM the Door.
 - (a) John 10:7, 9
 - (5) I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
 - (a) John 14:6
 - (6) I AM in the midst of your storm.

7) I AM GUIDED BY HIS PURPOSE (JOHN 6:21)

- a) God has not promised us smooth sailing; He has promised us a safe landing.
- b) There were three miracles:



- i) He suspended the law of gravity.
- ii) He overruled the law of time.
- iii) He overruled the law of space.
- c) When Jesus came aboard, immediately they were at the shore.
 - i) He had a purpose.
 - ii) He will see you to the shore.
 - iii) Andrew Murray said, "God is willing to assume the full responsibility for the life totally yielded to Him."
 - iv) He brought them to the destination.
- d) You may have trouble, you may have tears and heartaches, but you are predestined to be like Jesus.
 - i) Romans 8:28
 - ii) One of these days, your destiny will be fulfilled.
 - iii) Philippians 1:6

8) CONCLUSION

- a) If you are in trouble right now, then His eyes are on you, and He is praying for you.
- b) Hebrews 13:5
 - i) He will see you through.
- c) One of these days, He will step down from the mountain of His glory.
 - i) Then, walking on water will be like child's play because He will be stepping on the clouds.
 - (1) He will be coming to us.
- d) With victory on His face, as the Great I Am, the trumpet will sound.
 - i) Your ship will leave the sea of time and immediately be on the shores of eternity.
- e) His providence allows us trouble and heartache, but He never takes His eyes off of us.
- f) He comes to us in the darkest hour, and He sees us through.
- g) Jesus is God's answer to our despair and every other need that we will ever have.
- h) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- i) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16



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Be finding John chapter 6, please in the Word of God. Let me tell you what I want to do this morning. I want to introduce you to an old friend that you've known for a long time; but you didn't know he was a friend. Now what is a friend? Well a friend is somebody that makes you a better person. Isn't that what a friend is? The Bible says in Proverbs 27:17, "As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend." What that means is this, that a true friend will put an edge on your life. A true friend will make you a sharper person. Now my friends do that for me, my best friends do. Sometimes a friend will love you so much that he will even hurt you in order to help you. The Bible says in the book of Proverbs chapter 27 and verse 6, "Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful."

How would you like to have a friend, a friend who would help you to live a clean life? How would you like to have a friend that would draw you closer to Jesus? How would you like to have a friend that would give you more strength? How would you like to have a friend that would help you to win your loved ones to Jesus Christ? How would you like to have a friend that would make a mature believer in the Lord Jesus? Well you already have that friend and his name is trouble. Trouble, that's the name of this strange friend. And that's what we're going to be talking about today.

Look if you will in John chapter 6 verses 16 through 21. This is a time when the disciples got in trouble. "When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take Him by force, to make Him a king, He departed again into a mountain Himself alone. And when even was now come, His disciples went down unto the sea, and entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was now dark, and Jesus was not come to them. And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew. So that when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid. But He saith unto them, 'It is I; be not afraid.' Then they willingly received Him into the ship: and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went."

Many times it's been my privilege visit the land of Israel, and what a glorious place that is. But I suppose my favorite place in the land of Israel is by the shore of Galilee. And my favorite time in Israel is the evening time by the shore of Galilee. There's a little hotel that I enjoy, sitting out back on the little wharf that goes out into the Sea of Galilee and watching the sun as it reflects there while it is setting on the Golan Heights. To see the birds fly over that sea. To feel the gentle breeze, it's so tranquil. It is so wonderful. It is so beautiful. It's almost intoxicating to sit there and see that Sea of Galilee. The old Rabbis used to say that, "God made all of the other bodies of water, all of the other seas, and then He made Galilee just for Himself to be a thing of beauty and a thing of enjoyment."

Now I thought of that when I read this Scripture because the Bible says it was evening time at Galilee when this took place, that I am about to tell you. It was the eventide, it was the twilight and that most beautiful tranquil time. Jesus had just fed the 5,000. The crowds were clambering after Him because of the miracles that He had done. They wanted to make Him a king. But He had no interest in being that kind of a king. So Jesus withdrew Himself up to a mountain to pray, to get away from the clambering miracle mongers. And He sent the disciples down to the sea to go across the Sea of Galilee. And I can just see that scene. I envision the moon, there in the beautiful sky, like a gardenia pinned on the lapel of the night. I can feel the gentle breeze as it kissed their cheeks, like the kiss of a baby. And these are seasoned sailors and there they



set sail because our Lord has told them. As a matter of fact, He has constrained them to do what they're about to do; little aware that any trouble is coming.

But they are sailing into the teeth of a storm. And the Bible says in John 6:18, "Suddenly the wind arose." Have you ever been there? Everything seems to be wonderful, everything seems to be beautiful. You're sailing along, you're like the disciples were that night, they were so full of joy and peace. They'd seen their Master feed 5,000. They were filled with the sense of exhilaration and power. After all, they were following Him and He was a miracle worker. Besides that, they'd eaten and they were filled with bread and fish.

And then it happened; the winds become boisterous and greedy waves reached up to pull them down to devour them and that water now is filling the boat. Now the wind is contrary, the moon is hidden. It is dark. As a matter of fact, the Bible teaches that it's the darkest hour of the night. And they're rowing and their backs are aching. Their hands are paralyzed with fear, but they can't stop rowing. They're right out in the middle of the sea. They rowed for two or three miles against that gale. They can't go back and it's difficult to go forward. It's too far to swim to the shore. And the shore line is lost in the inky blackness and they're filled with despair. And they're going to find out that Jesus is God's answer to man's despair.

Maybe you've been there. Maybe you're not there. Maybe everything is fine for you. Maybe it is smooth sailing for you right now. If so, just wait, just wait. I mean, sooner or later, you're going to find the winds are going to begin to blow and things are going to seem to reverse on you. If you're having smooth sailing right now, I'm grateful. I want you to enjoy it. But I want to give you six anchors that'll help you to ride out the storm. When the storm comes, there're six things I want you to be able to say, to find out that Jesus is God's answer to man's despair. These are six anchors of the soul. Wonderful, wonderful lessons that we get from this passage of Scripture.

The first thing you need to say when you find yourself in a storm is this: **I am governed by His providence**, write it down, I am governed by His providence. This storm did not take the wave walker, the Lord Jesus, by surprise. Are you telling me that the One who had the power to still the waves and walk on water was surprised that this storm came up? As a matter of fact the Bible says in Psalm 107 verse 25, "He's the one that commandeth and raiseth stormy seas." He's the one who created Galilee so long ago. And, the Bible tells us over in Matthew chapter 14 verse 22, "He constrained His disciples." He constrained them to go and get in the ship. They were not there because they were out of the will of God; they were there because they were in the will of God. And perhaps, you're right now in the eye of the storm, that's right now; it looks like your little boat is sinking. Right now the icy water is reaching up for you. Right now it's so dark you cannot see your hand before your face. Right now every wind seems to be contrary to you. I want to tell you something friend, there is nothing that comes to you that He does not cause or allow, one way or the other. His providence is there. Not a drop of water in the Sea of Galilee was there without His permission. And so put it down first of all, I am governed by His providence. Whether I can see it, whether I can understand it or not, it is a fact that God has not relinquished His rule upon His universe.

Second anchor of the soul: **I am growing by His plan**. I am governed by His providence; I am growing by His plan. What is God's plan for you? God wants to enlarge you, not indulge you. God is not merely so interested in making you happy and healthy as He is holy. And so God will put you into trouble. The Lord Jesus engineered these problems for His disciples, because He wants to develop us. Psalm chapter 4 verse 1 the Psalmist said this, "Thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress." Now you think about that. "Thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress." Think about the times when you have grown the most. When have been those times when you have developed and been enlarged spiritually. It's when your good friend trouble came along. Your old pal named trouble, and that's when you've been stretched and that's when you've been enlarged. We all enjoy not having trouble, but folks I want to tell you; and I can give this testi-



mony, that I have grown the most in my own life, in times of deepest despair. I know that when Joyce and I had a little baby boy to step over into Heaven we grew a quantum leap in that period of time. I know when I had a daughter to go through deep, deep heartache and distress, God stretched my heart, my life. I would never want it to happen again, but it did happen. And I'm here to tell you that I'm a better person because of it. And many of us can think of the storms we have gone through.

"I walked a mile with pleasure, she chatted all the way, but left me none the wiser for all she had to say. I walked a mile with sorrow and not a word said she. But oh the things I learned from sorrow when sorrow walked with me." Isn't that true? "Thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress." Faith, like film, is developed best in the dark. I don't know why it is, but that is true. These are the things that will, will enlarge us.

Remember in Numbers chapters 13 and 14, when Joshua and Caleb were sent out to spy out the land of Israel and there were twelve spies that were sent out and ten came back and gave a bad report. They said, well, "It's a land filled with milk and honey, coin and oil and wine and pomegranate and grapes. It has wonderful hills and valleys and you can dig iron out of those hills; rivers, mountains, beautiful fertile plains. But there are giants in the land. The sons of Anak, they're called Anakim, these Anakim, these are terrible giants. We can't go into that land because if we do we'll go into war and, well, they're like, they're so big we felt like grasshoppers. And Caleb said, and I love what Caleb said, Caleb said in Numbers 14 verse 9, "Rebel not ye against the Lord, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us." Bread, not B-R-E-D, not that they were created for us, but B-R-E-A-D; they're food for us. They're bread for us. Now what did he mean by that? What happens when you eat bread? You strengthen, you grow. Now what Caleb said is these difficulties are there to make us grow. They are bread for us. We can do it, you will never grow until you eat the bread that God sets before you and often it is trouble. Anakim are the breakfast of champions. To grow, you have to have difficulty.

So first thing, I'm governed by His providence. Number two, I am growing by His plan. Number three: **I am graced by His prayers.** What was the Lord Jesus doing up on that mountain top? When the Lord Jesus sent them down to the sea and He went up to the mountain, do you know what He had right there? He had a vantage. He saw the whole thing. He saw them rowing. He saw the clouds as they begin to royal and boil. He saw the sea as the waves begin to rise. He saw it all, and what was He doing up there? He was praying; He was praying. They may not have known that He had His eye upon them, but He did. Put in your margin Mark chapter 6 verse 47 and 48, "And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and He," Jesus, "alone on the land. And He saw them toiling in rowing," "He saw them toiling and rowing." They didn't see Him, He saw them! And He never took His eye off of them. And what was He doing there on that mountain? He was praying for them. He was interceding for them.

Are you in the midst of a storm? You can say, His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches me! He's watching over you and He is praying for you. The Bible says in Hebrews chapter 7 and verse 25, "Wherefore He is able also to save unto the uttermost them come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them." Sometimes people will say to me casually and almost carelessly, almost, sometimes flippantly, put me on your prayer list. And I don't say it out loud but sometimes I think, "Fat chance." You say, "Oh, you're so hard-hearted." No, I'm not. No, you can't pray for everybody. You can't pray for everything. If you try to pray for everybody and everything, your prayer list will become a stagnant swamp rather than a controlled river. God will lay prayer burdens upon your heart and God will tell you who to pray for. Oh, I pray generally for a person, but friend when somebody tells me that they pray for me every day, tears generally pop to my eyes. I think there're almost six billion people on the face of this Earth, if somebody is praying for you, you're blessed. You're blessed if somebody is praying for you. And I am blessed that people pray for me and don't think I don't pray for others. I pray for a lot of people.



You don't understand what I'm saying. I'm just simply saying this, that if you're on somebody's prayer list, you're blessed. But now you listen to me, you are on Jesus' prayer list. You! He knows you. Luke 12 verse 7, "The very hairs of your head are numbered." You're not an incident, you're not an accident! He doesn't love us all, He loves us each! He was watching them right in the eye of the storm! He was there. They couldn't see Him, but He could see them.

I am governed by His providence. I am growing by His plan. I am graced by His prayers. I'll tell you another thing. When I'm in the storm **I am gladdened by His presence**, write it down, I am gladdened by His presence. Look if you will in John 6 verse 17, the Bible says, "And they entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was now dark, and Jesus was not come to them." But then go down to verse 20, "But He saith unto them, 'It is I.'" "Here I am," "Be not afraid." Now it's the fourth hour when Jesus does this. The fourth hour is the hour between three and six AM. It's the darkest hour of the night. And in their darkest hour Jesus came. Question, why did He not come sooner? Was He cruel? Was He just wanting them to suffer? I can imagine them there with their backs aching. Looking into the mouth of a watery grave there asking, "Where's Jesus? Where is Jesus? If He could feed 5,000, where is Jesus?" He had His eye on them all the time. He's praying for them all of the time. He had not forgotten them.

You know, the problem was not that He had forgotten them; they had forgotten Him, in the real sense of the word. By the way, just put in your margin here again. Mark chapter 6 verses 51 and 52. Here's something almost humorous. The Bible says, it gives the same story, "And He went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered." And now listen to verse 52, "For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened." Remember when He fed the 5,000, what was the miracle of the loaves. He fed 5,000. Now here they are, they had seen Him feed the 5,000 and how many baskets full were left over? How many? Twelve! So here's every disciple with a basket of bread right at his feet. I mean there right between his feet. Here is a basket of bread, one basket for every disciple. And the Bible says they forgot all about it. They forgot the miracle of the loaves.

That's the reason friend you need more than miracles to live on. You need Jesus, you need Jesus. How easily we forget miracles and here they are, saying again, "Give us another miracle, give us another miracle." But what they needed was not a miracle they needed the Miracle Worker, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

Now He waited for a while before He came to them. He waited, because He came to them strategically at exactly the right time. The Bible says in Isaiah chapter 30 and verse 18, "Therefore will the Lord wait, that He may be gracious unto you." Many times the Lord will deliberately delay that He may be gracious to us. In John chapter 11, when Lazarus died, they sent for Jesus and the Bible tells us rather than Jesus coming immediately at their request and behest, that Jesus demurred. He waited. He held back until Lazarus was dead. And if you read John 11 verses 14 and 15, we'll get to it in a little while when we're preaching on these miracles. He said this, "Lazarus is dead and I'm glad." What! That's what He said, "Lazarus is dead and I'm glad." Because He had something greater.

Suppose the Lord had come, when Mary had pouted and Martha had rebuked Him. "Why did you wait?" Suppose He'd come sooner and laid His hand upon the fevered brow of Lazarus and healed Lazarus. Well, just one more person that Jesus healed. Some people would have said, "You know He might have gotten better anyway. I mean after all, even, you know, people get better sometime. How do we know it was a miracle?" I'll tell you one thing, when He raises the dead they don't say it might happen anyway. Isn't that right? You see He had a plan. And that plan was the greater glory. God waited four thousand years before He sent the Lord Jesus Christ into this world after He made that promise. Four thousand years. Forty centuries! But the Bible says in Galatians 4:4, "He came in the fullness of time." Never late, never ahead of time, never



in a hurry. Put this verse down, Habakkuk 2 and verse 3 and it's a great verse for you, if you're in trouble: "For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it, wait for it." And so I'm gladdened by His presence. He will come to me and His eyes upon me as He prays for me.

Here's the fifth anchor of the soul that I want you to write it down. When I'm in trouble, **I am guarded by His power**. Look if you will in John 6 verse 20, "But He saith unto them, 'It is I; be not afraid.'" I don't know who first said this but I 100% agree with it, "The will of God will never take you where the grace of God cannot keep you." "The will of God will never take you where the grace of God cannot keep you." That's everlastingly true.

Now, Jesus had said to these disciples, "Go over to the other side." He said, "Go over." He did not say, "Go under." He had a plan for them. And so they see Him when all of these waves, here He comes walking on the water. You know, if I could have been here in the days of His flesh, the many times I would like to have seen Him. But if I just had my choice I would choose this one. I can just see that kingly form with the wind in His hair, putting His footsteps on the sea, His garments billowing back, smiling at the storm. Wouldn't you love to see Jesus walking on the water? And so here He comes. At first they say, "What is that? Who is that?" They begin to draw back in terror. They think it's a phantom, a ghost. They don't know what it is. But soon, soon the terror is turned to joy because they hear Him say, "It is I, be not afraid." But now let me tell you something. What He literally said is, "Don't be afraid, I AM." That's exactly what He said. "I AM, not I am afraid, I am I AM." What He used was the name for Jehovah, the most sacred name to the Jews.

In Exodus chapter 3 verses 13 and 14, when Moses said, "Who shall I say sent me when I tell Pharaoh to let my people go?" Jehovah said, "You tell them I AM sent you." Yesterday, He wasn't I was, He was I AM. Today, He is I AM and tomorrow He is not I will be tomorrow, He is I AM. He is I AM. I AM. I AM. "Never was a time when I was not. I AM the great eternal God and I was when this pond wasn't even a vapor. Don't be afraid. I AM!" I am guarded by His power. What is I AM? It is a declaration, a proclamation of presence, a promise of abundance. He is the I AM in the midst of your storm.

Now why did He walk on the water? Was this theatrics? Oh no, no. Was He just saying, "Look at Me; I can walk on water?" No, there's a message in the miracle, a significance in the sign. Something that goes beyond the miracle. Something for your heart today when you're in trouble and what is it! Listen! When they saw Him walking on the water what was their biggest problem? That water. What He was saying to them is this, "What looks like is going to be over your head, is already under My feet." Did you get it? "What you think is going to be over your head is already under My feet." Don't forget that. Jesus said in John 16:33, "In this world you will have tribulation. Be of good cheer. I have overcome the world." We're overcomers in the Lord Jesus Christ. You've got problems, you've got heart aches, you've got fears and tears. You are guarded by His power. You are. He is to you the great I AM.

I wish I had more time to finish that but I AM is an unfinished sentence. I am what? You fill in the blank. I AM the bread of life. I AM the water of life. I AM the door. I AM the way, the Truth, and the Life. I AM the great. I AM in the midst of your storm.

And here's the last and final anchor of the soul I want to give you. Not only am I guarded by His power, but **I am guided by His purpose**. Look, let me tell you something. God has not promised you smooth sailing, He has promised you a safe landing. He said, "Go over to the other side." Now look if you will in John 6 verse 21, "Then they willingly received Him into the ship: and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went." There were two miracles; actually three. He suspends the law of gravity, but also over rules the laws of time and space. Just like that, they're there. I mean, here they are rowing, their backs aching. Their brows mingle with perspiration and sea water. When Jesus comes aboard, immediately. There they are at



the shore. What does that mean? It means He has a purpose. You can bank on it, no pun intended, He'll see you to the shore. Well maybe there was a pun intended I have to apologize. Now, Andrew Murray said this, "God is willing to assume the full responsibility for the life totally yielded to Him." "God is willing to assume the full responsibility for the life totally surrendered to Him." And He brought them to the destination.

You may have trouble, you may have tears and heart aches but I'm going to promise you something on the authority of the Word of God. You are predestined to be like Jesus. And in Romans 8:28, "All things will work together for good to those who love Him, who are the called according to His purpose." One of these days, one of these days your destiny will be fulfilled. For the Bible says in Philippians 1:6, "He who hath begun a good work in you will perform it." And let me tell you something, folks, if you're in trouble right now, His eyes on you. He's praying for you. He will come to you and I can promise you this, He is going to see you through. Did you hear me?

You say, "Adrian, who are you to promise?" I'm not promising. I'm repeating a promise. He said in Hebrews 13:5, "I will never leave thee or forsake thee." He will see you through and one of these days, soon and very soon, He is going to step down from the mountain of His glory. And then walking on water will be like child's play because He'll be stepping on the clouds. And He's coming to us. As the barometer is falling and the winds are whipping and the storms are coming. And we say, "What is the world coming to?" It's coming to Jesus because Jesus is coming to this world. And He's going to step out of the glory, with the rainbow wrapped around His shoulders. And with victory on His face as the great I AM and the trumpet will sound. And our little ship will leave the sea of time and immediately we'll be on the shores of eternity. When He comes. When He comes. He is the great I AM. What a Savior.

Bow your heads in prayer. Lord Jesus, thank You that Your providence allows us trouble and heartache but that You never take Your eyes off of us. And Lord, You come to us in the darkest hour, that You see us through. You always have and You always will.

Now while heads are bowed and eyes are closed. You need Jesus. You need Jesus. He is God's answer to your despair and every other need that you'll ever have. And I want to help you to invite Him into your heart and into your life right now. Would you pray a prayer like this, "Dear God," just pray it from your heart, silently but fervently, "Dear God, I know that You love me and I know that You want to save me. Jesus, You died to save me. You promised to save me if I would trust in You. I do trust in You, Lord Jesus, this very moment come into my heart." Pray that friend, "Come into my heart, Lord Jesus. Forgive my sin, cleanse me, save me and begin now to make me the person You want me to be. And Lord Jesus, because You died for me I will live for You, and help me Lord Jesus never to be ashamed of You. Give me the strength the courage this morning to make it public. In Your name I pray, Amen."



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