SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: How to Find Peace in the Midst of Your Storm

SERMON REFERENCE: John 6:16-21

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2158

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1) INTRODUCTION
   a) There are storms in life that come to each of us.
      i) No one knows what a day may bring forth.
   b) John 6:16-21
      i) The Lord Jesus was with His disciples ministering in Galilee.
      ii) The disciples boarded a boat to sail to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, and a storm suddenly arose.
      iii) As the disciples were trying to row through the storm, they saw Jesus walking on the water coming toward them; and they were very afraid.
      iv) 365 times in the Bible, once for every day of the year, God has told us not to be afraid, to fear not.
         (1) The devil is the sinister minister of fear, but our Lord tells us not to be afraid.
   c) Sooner or later, we will find ourselves in a storm.
   d) Today’s message will show us how to find peace in the midst of the storm.
      i) Peace is not the subtraction of problems from life.
      ii) Peace is the addition of power to meet those problems.

2) I AM GOVERNED BY HIS PROVIDENCE (MATTHEW 14:22)
   a) What happened to the disciples that day was not happenstance, nor was it a mistake.
      i) It was not something that should have been avoided.
      ii) The storm did not take Jesus by surprise.
         (1) If the Lord Jesus can walk upon water, He can certainly read and forecast the weather.
   b) This storm and situation were not incidental; it was providential.
      i) Matthew 14:22
         (1) The Lord Jesus told the disciples to get onto the ship.
         (2) It was Jesus who sent them into the storm.
   c) It may be that God has engineered your storm.
      i) If He has not engineered it, then He has allowed it because God is over everything.
         (1) Psalm 107:24-25
         (2) God is the master of the winds and the waves.
   d) It is a shallow theology that claims we will have smooth sailing on the sea of life if we are in the will of God.
      i) In this life, we will know sickness, sorrow, disappointment, death and separation.
   e) In this life, we will have difficulty; but we can know that God’s providence is over it all.
      i) God’s wonderful plan is in effect.
      ii) Jesus constrained the disciples to get into the storm.
         (1) They were in the storm because of the providence of God.
3) I AM GROWING BY HIS PLAN (PSALM 4:1)
   a) God’s plan is not to indulge us, but to enlarge us.
   b) We have a tendency to grow more in the storms of life than we do during times of smooth sailing.
   c) In the Bible, we read of correcting storms and perfecting storms.
      i) Jonah was in a correcting storm when he was in the belly of the great fish.
         (1) Jonah was out of the will of God and was running from God when God sent a correcting storm.
      ii) These disciples were not outside of the will of God.
          (1) They were in a storm because they were in the will of God.
          (2) They were in the storm because they were obeying Jesus.
             (a) Jesus wanted them to grow.
   d) Faith is developed in the storm; that’s when we learn to trust the Lord.
      i) It is in the storm where we grow and become more like the Lord Jesus Christ.

4) I AM GRACED BY HIS PRAYERS (JOHN 6:17)
   a) When the disciples entered the ship, Jesus was not with them.
      i) He was on a mountaintop praying.
         (1) Matthew 14:23
   b) We should not think that Jesus has forsaken us just because we cannot see Him.
      i) He may not be with us in bodily form, but He is very much aware of us.
      ii) Mark 6:47-48
         (1) Jesus saw the disciples toiling in rowing.
         (2) He sees us, as well.
      iii) He went apart to a mountain to pray.
         (1) He saw, right through the darkness, the disciples.
         (2) They could not see Him, but He saw them; and He sees us.
   c) Jesus prays for us.
      i) We are on Jesus’ prayer list.
      ii) He knows us by name and calls us by name.
      iii) The Bible says that He ever lives to make intercession for us.
         (1) Hebrews 7:25
   d) The finished work of Jesus is Calvary; the unfinished work of Jesus is His prayer ministry.
      i) Jesus was praying for the disciples in the midst of their storm.
         (1) While they were in the boat, He was on the shore praying.
      ii) He is also praying for us in the midst of our storm.

5) I AM GLADDED BY HIS PRESENCE (JOHN 6:20)
   a) Matthew 14:27
   b) The disciples had been out on the sea for six agonizing hours.
      i) Why didn’t Jesus come sooner? Why did He wait?
ii) Mark 6:48
   (1) Jesus came in the fourth watch of the night, which is between 3:00 AM and 6:00 AM, the darkest hour of the night.
iii) It seemed as though Jesus had forgotten them.
   (1) But it was really the disciples who had forgotten.
c) Jesus had performed a miracle just before He went to the mountain top and the disciples had entered the boat.
i) John 6:12-13
   (1) Jesus had fed the five thousand.
ii) The twelve baskets they filled were for the disciples.
   (1) Twelve baskets for twelve disciples.
iii) Jesus told them to take everything, to take every fragment that remained.
   (1) Each disciple had a basket of bread sitting at his feet in that boat.
   (2) Jesus had just performed a miracle, and now the disciples are filled with fear.
      (a) They thought Jesus had forgotten them, but they had forgotten Jesus.
      (b) They had forgotten what Jesus had already done.
iv) How many times has Jesus delivered us and performed miracles for us, but we have forgotten?
d) We need to remember what Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 5:18.
e) Jesus’ delay in coming to the disciples was strategic and deliberate.
i) Isaiah 30:18
   (1) The Lord waits, not to be cruel to us, but to be gracious to us.
ii) The word “judgment” in this passage means “discernment.”
   (1) He knows what we need.
iii) God waits, and we need to wait.
iv) God is waiting for us to wait on Him.
v) There are other examples in Scripture that show a deliberate delay of the Lord:
   (1) John 11:1-44
      (a) Jesus waited two days before coming when Lazarus died.
      (b) If Jesus had come immediately and healed Lazarus, there may have been those who would dismiss the miracle, claiming that Lazarus might have gotten well anyway.
      (c) But there was no way to dismiss the miracle of Jesus raising him from the dead.
      (d) Jesus had a plan.
      (e) The plan did not make sense to Mary and Martha.
         (i) Martha scolded Jesus.
         (ii) Mary pouted.
   (2) Genesis 3:15
      (a) The Lord gave a promise in the Garden of Eden that He would send a Messiah.
(b) The Lord waited four thousand years before He fulfilled that promise.
   (i) Galatians 4:4

f) Many times, we try to pick God's blessings before they are ripe.

g) God is developing patience; He is never in a hurry, and He is never late.
   i) Habakkuk 2:3

h) Many of us are waiting for Jesus to come again.
   i) 2 Peter 3:4
   ii) Our Lord is coming again.

6) I AM GUARDED BY HIS POWER (JOHN 6:20)
   a) Someone once said that the grace of God will never take us where the grace of God cannot keep us.

b) Jesus constrained the disciples to get into the boat and to go over to the other side.
   i) He did not say “go under;” He said “go over.”
      (i) God has a plan for us.
   ii) Jesus did not lead the disciples into disaster.

c) John 6:20
   i) When Jesus says, “It is I,” this literally means in the Greek, “I AM.”
      (1) “I AM” is the sacred name for Deity.
      (2) Jesus is the Almighty, the Everlasting.
      (3) Jesus was in existence when the Sea of Galilee was not even a vapor.
   ii) When Jesus says, “I AM.”
      (1) It is a proclamation of presence.
         (a) A proclamation of His eternal presence.
         (b) It is not “I was” or “maybe I no longer am,” or not “I will be, but maybe I’m not yet.”
         (c) There was never a time when Jesus was not, and there never will be a time when He will not be.
      (2) It is an announcement of abundance.
         (a) “I AM” is an unfinished sentence.
         (b) Over and over again in the Gospel of John, Jesus says, “I AM.”
            (i) Are you lost?
               1. Jesus says, “I AM the way.”
                  a. John 14:6
            (ii) Are you on the wrong side and want to get in?
               1. Jesus says, “I AM the door.”
                  a. John 10:7, 9
            (iii) Are you hungry?
               1. Jesus says, “I AM the bread of life.”
                  a. John 6:35
            (iv) Are you stumbling in darkness?
               1. Jesus says, “I AM the light of the world.”
HOW TO FIND PEACE IN THE MIDST OF YOUR STORM  |  JOHN 6:16-21  |  #2158

a. John 8:12
(v) Are you dead in trespasses and sin?
   1. Jesus says, “I AM the resurrection and the life.”

a. John 11:25
(c) He is “I AM” for us.
   (i) Whatever our problems, whatever we need, He is “I AM” for us.
   (3) Jesus is all the world needs today.

d) We need to look for Jesus in the midst of our storms and see Him walking on the water.
   i) The storm, which looked like it was going to be over their heads, was already under His feet.
   ii) We are seated in the heavenlies with Him.
   iii) We cannot drown with our heads above water.

7) I AM GUIDED BY HIS PURPOSE (JOHN 6:21)
   a) God has not promised us smooth sailing, but He has promised us a safe landing.
   b) When the disciples received Jesus into the ship, they were immediately at the shore.
      i) Our destiny is already determined.
         (1) Time and space are not impediments to the Lord Jesus Christ.
         (2) He will see us to the shore.
   c) Andrew Murray said, “God is willing to assume the full responsibility for the life that is totally yielded to Him.”
   d) The disciples were experiencing tribulation.
      i) John 16:33
      ii) The storm represented the world.
         (1) Jesus has overcome the world.

8) CONCLUSION
   a) The spiritual barometer is falling, and all of us who can read the signs of the times know that there is a storm gathering.
      i) Sometimes it is the calmest just before the storm.
   b) Our Lord, who has been on the mountain of His glory praying for us, will soon rise from His throne.
      i) Instead of walking on the water, He will come stepping on the clouds.
      ii) He will come in His glory.
   c) Those of us who are here on the sea of time will immediately be on the shores of eternity.
   d) Have you received Jesus Christ into your boat? Have you trusted Him?
   e) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   f) 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