**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Peace in the Midst of Your Storm |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Galatians 5:22, Matthew 14:22-34 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1435 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Galatians 5:22
      1. Peace is the fruit of the Spirit.
   2. When we talk about peace, we need to understand what kind of peace we are talking about.
      1. There is peace “with” God.
         1. We do not have peace with God until we become a child of God.
            1. Romans 5:1
      2. There is the peace “of” God.
         1. This is the peace that Galatians 5:22 is talking about.
   3. Some people have peace “with” God, but they do not have the peace “of” God in their hearts.
      1. Colossians 3:15
      2. Philippians 4:7
   4. When the Lord Jesus Christ was facing the cross, He left us His peace.
      1. John 14:27
      2. It is not the kind of peace that the world gives or can take away.
      3. It is supernatural peace.
         1. It is the peace of God that passes all understanding.
         2. It is the peace of God that is to rule in our hearts.
   5. We need to understand what peace is.
      1. This kind of peace is not the absence of problems.
         1. We will never have the absence of problems as long as we are on this Earth.
            1. Job 14:1
      2. Peace is the addition of power.
      3. An illustration of this kind of peace is found in Matthew 14.
         1. In this passage of Scripture, we find the story of Jesus walking on the water.
            1. This was more than a miracle.

It was a miracle, and it literally happened.

This was a miracle with a message.

* + - 1. Through this, God illustrates to us what real peace is in the midst of our storms.
  1. Sooner or later, we will all be in a storm.
     1. Life is often like a storm.
     2. Psalm 42:7
        1. David was speaking poetically, but he was also speaking graphically.
        2. Sometimes we are engulfed in a storm.
     3. Matthew 14:22-34
        1. This tells us clearly and plainly how to have peace in the midst of our storms.
  2. In today’s message, we will look at five words that spell the word “peace” that will help us understand how to have peace in the midst of our storms.

1. providence: His purpose brought us here (matthew 14:22)
   1. Matthew 14:22
      1. The Lord Jesus told the disciples to get into a ship.
         1. They were not in that ship because they were out of the will of God.
         2. They were in the ship because they were in the will of God.
   2. Jesus Christ providentially led the disciples into a storm.
      1. Don’t get the idea that if we are in the will of God that we will not have any storms.
         1. The disciples were in the will of God and went right into a storm.
      2. The Lord Jesus knew there was a storm coming.
         1. He was the one who could walk on water.
         2. He was the one who could tell the waves to be still and they would be still.
            1. Mark 4:39
         3. The Bible says that He knew all things.
         4. He knew there was a storm coming; and knowing that, He led them into a storm.
      3. There is a false theology today that says that if we are right with God, then we will not have any problems.
         1. This is not true, and it is not Biblical.
            1. We are going to have storms.
   3. There are two kinds of storms that come to us in life.
      1. There are storms that we cause ourselves.
         1. The prophet Jonah got into this kind of storm.
            1. Jonah got into a storm because he was out of the will of God.
         2. These storms are correcting storms.
      2. The disciples got into a storm because they were in the will of God.
         1. These storms are perfecting storms.
   4. Whether it is a correcting storm or a perfecting storm, God is over all.
      1. The Bible speaks of the winds and waves that obey Him.
         1. Psalm 42:7
         2. Psalm 148:8
      2. God is in control.
      3. If someone is in a storm right now, you know that if God did not cause it, then He allowed it.
         1. It did not take Him by surprise.
            1. There is nothing that comes to us that God does not know about.
         2. He is over it, beyond it, through it, above it, and in it.
         3. He is the providential God.
            1. His purpose brought us here.
      4. God never says, “Oops.”
   5. Romans 8:28
2. entreaty: his prayers protect us here (Matthew 14:23)
   1. The Lord Jesus is entreating for us.
      1. He is praying for us in the midst of our storms.
      2. His prayers bring a mantle of protection over us.
   2. Matthew 14:23
      1. Jesus was on the mountain entreating for His disciples.
         1. He was praying for them.
         2. Mark tells of the same account in Mark 6:47-48.
      2. The disciples were out on the sea, and the waves were boisterous.
      3. Jesus was on the mountain, and He had His eyes on them.
         1. He was entreating the Father for them.
   3. In our storms, the Bible teaches that Jesus ever lives to make intercession for us.
      1. Hebrews 7:25
      2. Jesus Christ has us on His prayer list.
         1. His prayers are always answered.
            1. John 11:42
      3. If you had a big problem, how would it make you feel to know that the Lord Jesus was in the next room on His knees praying for you?
         1. It is nonetheless true that He is now in the glory praying for us.
            1. He is entreating the Father on our behalf.
         2. He has His eye upon us, and He watches us.
3. Assurance: his presence comes to us here (matthew 14:24-25)
   1. Jesus Christ will be more real to us in our storms than at any other time.
   2. The waves that seemed to threaten the disciples brought Jesus to them.
      1. Matthew 14:24-25
         1. The very sea that they thought was going to drown them was the vehicle that brought Jesus to them.
   3. He always comes to us in the midst of our storms.
      1. We may not recognize Him; but if we are a child of God, then He is there.
      2. Isaiah 43:1-2
         1. The Lord is always with us in our storms.
      3. Study the stories of people who have been in storms and problems.
         1. He was with the three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace.
            1. Daniel 3:8-25
            2. Jesus walked with them.
         2. He was with Daniel in the lion’s den.
            1. Daniel 6:6-23
         3. He was with the disciples in the upper room after the resurrection.
            1. They were trembling behind closed doors, and the Bible says that Jesus appeared to them in their midst.
            2. John 20:26

He always appears.

He always says, “Peace,” in the middle of our storms.

* + 1. Matthew 14:27
       1. In this passage, the words, “It is I,” in the Greek language are the words, “I Am.”
          1. He is the great I Am in the midst of our storms.
  1. We need to learn how to recognize Jesus in the storm.
     1. The disciples at first did not recognize Him.
        1. Matthew 14:26
           1. They were afraid.
        2. Jesus was there in their storm, but because they did not recognize His presence, they had no peace.
  2. Isaiah 26:3
  3. We need to put our eyes upon the Lord Jesus.
     1. Peter took his eyes off of Jesus, and he began to sink.
        1. Matthew 14:30
     2. Romans 8:6
        1. There are people who are circumstance-minded, trouble-minded, self-minded, and some are spiritually-minded.
     3. We have the assurance that His presence will come to us in the midst of the storm.
        1. Corrie Ten Boom said:
           1. If we look at circumstance and the world, then we will be distressed.
           2. If we look within, then we will be depressed.
           3. If we look at Christ, then we will be at rest.
  4. Colossians 3:15
  5. We have stress when we lose the peace of God.
     1. We are stressed to the degree that we have taken our eyes from Jesus and put them on the problem.
        1. Stress is the measure of the degree that we have our eyes upon the storm and not upon God.
  6. Psalm 46:1-3
     1. God is present in our trouble.
     2. Verse two is not talking about small trouble.
  7. Psalm 46:10
     1. God says that we should be still and know that He is God.
     2. What we fail to do when we get in the storm is to get our eyes off of the waves and onto the Lord.
        1. The difference between the amount that we have our eyes on the storm and not on God is stress.
     3. Matthew 14:27
     4. We have the assurance that He will never leave us nor forsake us.
        1. Hebrews 13:5
  8. In the center of hurricanes, there is a calm spot in the eye of the storm.
     1. In our storm, there is a center that is calm.
        1. It is the heart of God.
        2. We need to understand that He is there.
        3. He is the “I Am” in the midst of our storm.

1. comfort: his power sustains us here (matthew 14:26-29)
   1. Matthew 14:26-29
      1. It takes power to walk on water.
   2. The word “comfort” does not mean just soothing someone.
      1. It literally means “with strength.”
      2. It means, “His power sustains me here.”
   3. Why did Jesus put the disciples in that ship knowing a storm was coming, and why did He walk on the water and allow Peter to walk on the water?
      1. Jesus performed this miracle to teach one of the most glorious spiritual lessons we will ever learn.
      2. God wants to give us power to sustain us in our storms.
      3. The disciples were afraid they were going to sink and drown.
      4. Jesus was walking on the very waves that the disciples were afraid of.
         1. Jesus was showing them that what looked like was going to be over their heads was already under His feet.
      5. John 16:33
         1. In this verse, Jesus is talking about peace.
            1. We are going to have storms, but He has overcome them.
            2. What looks like is over our heads is under His feet.
   4. The Bible teaches in Ephesians 1 that Jesus Christ is exalted.
      1. He is at the right hand of the Father, and He is over everything.
         1. Ephesians 1:20
      2. Ephesians 1:22
         1. He is head over all, and all things are under His feet.
            1. He is the head of the Church, and the Church is His body.
            2. He is our head, so all things are under our feet.

We cannot drown with our head above water.

* + 1. Jesus is in the Heavenlies.
       1. Our problems are not problems to Him.
       2. He has subdued our problems.
          1. John 16:33
  1. It has been said that the will of God will never take us where the grace of God cannot keep us.
     1. We will never get into a storm but what He allows it, even if He doesn’t cause it.
  2. Matthew 14:28-29
     1. When Peter said, “Lord, let me come to You,” he was saying, “Lord, let me put my feet where You put Your feet. Let Your victory be my victory.”
     2. And Jesus said, “Come.”
        1. That is exactly what He is saying to us today.

1. expectation: his promise assures us here (matthew 14:30-34)
   1. We can expect Him to keep His Word.
   2. Matthew 14:30-34
      1. It looked like Peter was not going to make it.
         1. Have you ever been there?
   3. They did not go under; they went over because Jesus had commanded them to go to the other side.
      1. Matthew 14:22
      2. Behind every command of God is the promise of God to carry out that command.
      3. They did not need to understand how.
         1. How is none of our business.
         2. God is going to take care of that.
   4. We do not live by explanations but by promises.
      1. If God were to explain things to us, most of us would not understand it.
         1. Isaiah 55:8-9
   5. We have the full expectation that God will keep His Word.
      1. He will see us through.
      2. He will perfect that which concerns us.
         1. Psalm 138:8
      3. Whether it be a perfecting storm or a correcting storm, God will see us through.
   6. Andrew Murray said that God is willing to assume the full responsibility of a life totally committed to Him.
   7. Peter began to sink for a while, but he did not drown.
      1. Psalm 37:23-24
2. CONCLUSION
   1. You can have peace in the midst of your storm.
   2. You will never have the peace of God until you have peace with God.
      1. Can you say that you know that your sin is forgiven?
   3. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   4. 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.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16